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22 March 1983

## NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

No. 2724

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## ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

### 'ARMENIAN TERRORISM' ANALYZED BY FOREIGN PRESS

Beirut AZTAG in Armenian 28 Jan 83 pp 5,7

[Article by THE CITIZEN correspondent David Floyd, "a London-based freelance journalist specializing in Eastern European affairs"]

[Text] No matter what one's convictions may be with regard to terrorism as a means of political protest, there can be no doubt about the success of the Armenian terror campaign.

The Armenian terrorist organizations have made it perfectly clear to the Turkish government that its representatives are not safe anywhere outside Turkey.

On 27 August [1982], Atilla Altikat, the Turkish military attaché, was killed in Ottawa.

In May, the Turkish consul in Boston was fatally wounded.

In January, the Turkish consul in Los Angeles was ambushed and killed.

This month, five Armenian young men were arrested by the FBI in the United States and were charged with complicity in attacks carried out against Turkish diplomatic institutions.

In the last 7 years, that is since the rebirth of Armenian terrorism on an international scale, 22 Turkish diplomats have been killed in this campaign of terrorism. There were also 10 other assassination attempts and a total of 170 terror incidents for which Armenians claimed responsibility.

Armenian terrorism reached a peak last year with 47 acts of terrorism. That figure will probably be higher this year.

In September, the Armenians killed an official of the Turkish consulate in Burgas, Bulgaria, only 64 kilometers from the Turkish border.

In August, the Armenian terrorists carried out a suicide attack on the airport in Ankara, the capital of Turkey.

The main goal of the Armenians is quite clear: They want the Turkish government to admit its responsibility in the persecution, eviction and massacre since 1900 of Armenians living under the Turkish yoke.

The Armenians insist that one and a half million innocent people fell victim to a political act planned and executed by the Turkish authorities. Less partial sources put that figure at 800,000. However, no serious historian disputes the fact that the massacres did take place.

The Turkish government, however, refuses to admit anything of that nature; Turkey has been cleared of Armenians, and the case is shut.

Using phrasing that foreshadowed Hitler, the Turks declared their objective as the "elimination of the Armenian element" from the Turkish populace. Eastern Turkey, which the Armenians claim as their own homeland, has now been repopulated with Turks.

The Armenians stress that they were the victims of the first genocide of the 20th century and protest that they have been forgotten as a result of even more ferocious acts committed later by Hitler.

The Armenians are one of the smallest nations in the world. Approximately 3 million Armenians live in the Soviet Socialist Republic of Armenia, the only part of the historical Armenian homeland predominantly inhabited by Armenians. Around 1.5 million Armenians also live in other parts of the Soviet Union.

Another million or so Armenians live in the Middle East, Europe, the United States and Canada.

The Armenians of the diaspora take an ambivalent stance toward Soviet Armenia. They oppose Russian rule over their country and, as renowned merchants and traders, they do not agree with the communist system.

On the other hand, they see that Soviet Armenia is relatively prosperous and is primarily governed by Armenians who are doing no worse than the rest of the Armenians. As a matter of fact, Soviet Armenia is one of the least "Russified" republics in the Soviet Union.

In contrast to their neighbors to the east and the west, the Armenians are Christian. Their political inclinations are primarily governed by their nationalism and their feelings against the injustice done to them.

The Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia [ASALA], one of the terrorist organizations, has ties with the Palestinians. Previously headquartered in West Beirut, ASALA has been forced to look for a new center as a result of the Israeli invasion [of Lebanon]. [The new center will] probably be in France, which has a large Armenian community.

ASALA insists that it is part of the "International Revolutionary Movement." The other major Armenian terrorist organization, the Justice Commandos of the Armenian Genocide, has right-wing sympathies and limits its activities only to the pursuit of Armenian causes.

This month, another body was formed to pursue the Armenian cause: the Committee for the Defense of the Rights of the Armenian People.



During a conference in Munich, non-Armenian scientists, primarily Germans, joined hands with Armenians to make additional efforts to research Armenian history and the genocide and to disseminate information about Armenia around the world.

The newly-formed committee hopes to find broader cooperation in the West with regard to the pursuit of the Armenian cause and to improve the Armenian image which has been blemished by terrorism.

In view of the helplessness and the disappointment of the Armenians as well as the injustice done to them, it is hard not to sympathize with them. It is equally hard to be optimistic about a change of stance by Ankara after so many years after the events [of 1915].

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## ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

### PRESIDENT EVREN'S SPEECH, ARMENIAN TERRITORIAL DEMANDS ANALYZED

Beirut ZARTONK in Armenian 26 Jan 83 p 2

[Article by Antranig Antreasian]

[Text] It was an ordinary political act repeatedly performed by all other governments. Last November, Turkish Foreign Minister Ilter Turkmen paid an official visit to Moscow and had talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko. The results of their talks have not been revealed. That means that the two ministers did not reach a basic accord which would warrant the issuing of a joint communiqué.

The two ministers probably discussed trade and political issues. Ankara's envoy probably tried to persuade Moscow to use its influence to end the assassinations by terrorists of Turkish diplomats overseas, since the Soviet Union is considered to be a guardian and a supporter of Armenians and Armenia. Ankara has, on various occasions, charged Moscow with encouraging these attacks. There is no doubt that Gromyko responded to these requests with a categorical denial, since, for governments, acts of terror are like two-edged swords; they are dangerous for all governments and no capital in the world would want to endorse them.

No statements were issued to reveal the nature of the talks held between the foreign ministers of the Soviet Union and Turkey. But an unusual speech in Kars by Turkey's president and military dictator, Gen Kenan Evren, lifted the veil of secrecy over the talks. It is not unusual, of course, for the president of a country to visit various provinces, to talk to the people about the economic and political policies of the government he is heading and to put forth new proposals and plans.

But this particular scenario was not mere coincidence. At the conclusion of the talks between Gromyko and Turkmen, Turkish President Kenan Evren found it necessary to tour the eastern part of historical Armenia and to visit, in particular, the provinces of Kars, Ardahan and Artvin. More significantly, he chose the fortress city of Kars as the podium for his major speech, which was a mixture of undisguised anger and veiled threats.

On 27 November, Turkish President Kenan Evren stated in Kars:

"There were people who tried to break Kars and Ardahan away from Turkey. But they failed completely, and they know very well now that these two cities are and

will remain part of our country. No one except Turkey has sovereignty over this region.

"Certain uninformed individuals in foreign countries tried to show Kars as part of Armenia. But the fact will always remain that no one has any rights over these lands."

It is interesting: What unusual event suddenly prompted President Evren to go and tour the occupied Armenian provinces and to sound an angry warning in a speech specially made from the podium of Kars? Furthermore, the speech was made during the same days when the Turkish foreign minister was in Moscow and was holding talks on behalf of Evren with Andrey Gromyko with an eye to reinforcing the ties between the two countries by an agreement.

President Evren confirms a fact when he says: "There were people who tried to take Kars and Ardahan away from Turkey." But he prefers to hide from the Turkish people--lest they are scared--the identity of those people. Those people were definitely not Ankara's guardians in London, Washington or the capitals of their followers. Those demanding "people" were the government leaders of the Soviet Union: Stalin, Molotov and Gromyko. The issue of repatriating Armenian lands occupied by Turkey to Armenia was on the agenda of the Potsdam conference. Documents of that conference were published around the end of 1980 in a volume of official documents edited by Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko.

Nazi Germany had already been defeated and had surrendered to the Allies. The historic Potsdam conference was held between 17 July and 2 August 1945 in order to resolve outstanding issues among the victorious allies. The conference was attended by President Truman, Prime Minister Stalin and Prime Minister Churchill, representing the three great powers. The Soviet Union put on the agenda of the conference the issue of returning to Armenia certain Armenian territories occupied by Turkey.

Meanwhile, one week after the defeat of Germany, Turkey asked the Soviet Union to renew the 20-year nonaggression pact between the two countries which was signed in 1924 and expired in 1944. Moscow agreed, but on condition that the lands seized from Armenia be returned to Yerevan. Ankara complained about this to Anthony Eden, the British Foreign Secretary of the time, who subsequently raised the issue with Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov in Potsdam.

Molotov's answer was explicit:

"In 1921, the Turks exploited the weakness of the Soviet Union and seized part of Soviet Armenia. The Armenians of the Soviet Union feel insulted. In view of these circumstances, the Soviet government has demanded the return of these lands belonging to the Soviet Union by lawful means." (page 40)

Later, during the conference, replying to Churchill's demand that [the Soviets] not "intimidate" Turkey, Molotov gave a broader explanation:

"We admit that the Soviet-Turkish border is unjust in certain areas. It is a fact that in 1921 chunks of territory were taken away from Soviet Armenia and Soviet

Georgia, namely the well-known provinces of Kars, Ardahan and Artvin. Here is the map of the territories seized by Turkey (he passed copies of the map). Here is why I stated that in order to sign a treaty it is necessary to resolve the issue of territories seized from Armenia and Georgia--by returning those territories to their rightful owners." (page 144-145)

Prime Minister Stalin, meanwhile, concluded:

"What is being said with respect to revising and rectifying Turkey's eastern border is that the borders existing before World War I must be restored. I am talking about the province of Kars, which used to be part of Armenia before the war, and the province of Ardahan, which used to be part of Georgia before the war. We believe that the borders of the provinces of Kars and Ardahan are incorrect and we have proposed to Turkey that these borders be corrected."

At the Potsdam conference, Churchill became the leading defender of Turkey's borders and blocked the realization of Stalin's demands in connection with the return of Armenian territories. President Truman naturally joined Churchill on this issue. Two years later, in April 1947, Truman raised a wall blocking the Armenian cause by announcing his infamous Truman Doctrine.

Turkish President Kenan Evren is no doubt aware of these documents and the truth they contain. He knows those unnamed "people" who, in the past, tried to take Kars and Ardahan from Turkey. But, of course, what has angered and incited him is not the threat implied by documents which are almost 40 years old. Why then was he in Kars in those particular days to sound his anxious warning? The most obvious answer to that question was probably given by the Turks' failure to attain their goal in Moscow.

Just as in 1945, Turkey probably again proposed that the defunct nonaggression treaty between the two countries be renewed. And probably, just as Stalin and Molotov in 1945, Gromyko spelled out the same solution: Yes to a border treaty, but on condition that Turkey return certain territories it has seized--Kars, Ardahan, etcetera--to their rightful and historical owners, namely Armenia and Georgia.

President Evren would not make such an angry speech as a result of demands made at the Potsdam conference--which he expected to have already been forgotten. His anger was apparently fired by the restatement of these demands in Moscow by Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko to the Turkish foreign minister. Otherwise, why would Evren feel the need to cover the torment in his mind with angry noises?

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PAPER COMMENTS ON DENIAL OF TURKISH GOVERNMENT

Beirut AZTAG in Armenian 26 Jan 83 p 1

[Editorial: "Turkish-style Answer"]

[Text] Who would dare to say that Turkey is afraid of the light of the truth?

How can anyone say that the leaders of Ankara do not have the courage to lift the veil of silence from their faces?

No. The Evrens do not have a single reason to remain in the dark.

The evidence is out for everyone to see and has been disseminated to the four corners of the world by the internationally-known REUTERS NEWS AGENCY.

Our paper, too, published the news item on the first page of its Saturday issue.

For those who did not pay attention and, why not, for the incredulous, it is worth repeating the wire service news item, whose meaning is very clear and unique: A spokesman of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs has described as "fabricated" and "a lie" our charge that the Turkish government and its operatives have kidnaped a comrade official of ours.

If you are not satisfied with this, the Turkish reply is also able to add that the kidnaping of Comrade Apo "is the result of the well-known infighting among armed Armenian organizations."

Period.

That is how the Turk is. He has always been hasty in placing the period.

He is hasty in using periods not only in taking decisions to resolve problems in the most criminal and despicable manner, but also and especially, after committing the crime, he considers a flagrant and categorical denial to the world as the shortest and the most effective answer to the charges.

It is ironic that Turkish fascism has always been successful in securing the silence of the world by this method, relying on international indifference to leave the Armenian genocide an unpunished crime and the competition of the great powers to please Turkey at any cost.

But the other side of the coin is equally ironic, this time on Turkey's account.

Every time that Turkey has been hasty in committing a crime and attempting to cover it up, exactly the opposite has happened, and a new page has been opened exactly where the perpetrator of the genocide has tried to place a period.

How can the Turkish reply in this instance have any hopes on a period when it cannot run away from the floodlights focusing on it and when it seeks exoneration by pointing a finger of accusation to addresses in the ranks of the Armenian nation itself.

Undoubtedly, Turkey thought very long to prepare this answer. It would, undoubtedly, prefer not to answer at all, because it has always operated on the conviction that forgetting is more effective than denial, especially since every denial is an involuntary admission of guilt.

After all, the Evrens had planned and had executed the criminal kidnaping of our comrade such that no evidence would bring Turkey's responsibility out of the darkness.

Ankara would probably try to remain silent before all charges directed against it if only the voice of the Armenian nation would not echo from very far away and if only that echo remained confined.

But once again the perpetrator of the genocide made the mistake of hastily plotting in the dark and counting on remaining silent about his crime. The longer his silence lasted, the louder became the voice of the Armenian nation.

The same mistake is apparently repeated in the Turkish answer denying responsibility in the crime.

When the whole world is listening to the unanimous and concordant protest of the Armenian nation condemning the kidnaping of our comrade, Turkey, forced to answer against its wishes, tries to close the issue with a hasty period in a vain, but always treacherous, effort to put the responsibility of the crime on the Armenians.

With this treacherous effort Ankara not only provides screaming evidence of its nastiness to distance itself from the charge, but also it confirms the determination of the Armenian nation to fight the Turkish crime with united ranks.

[The Turkish reply] opens a new page in the need to close our ranks further and to mobilize the entire Armenian nation against Turkey's anti-Armenian policy.

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RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS IN SOVIET ARMENIA, U.S., JERUSALEM, LEBANON DISCUSSED

Beirut ZARTONK in Armenian 27 Jan 83 pp 2,3

[Interview with Vazken I, Catholicos of All Armenians, by Boston MIRROR-SPECTATOR Editor Barbara Merquerian]

[Text] Barbara Merquerian, the editor of MIRROR-SPECTATOR--the official English-language press organ of the Democratic Liberal Party in Boston--was in Soviet Armenia last October to attend the inauguration of the Alex Manoogian Treasure House [of precious Armenian religious artifacts] in Holy Edzhmiadzin. On that occasion she submitted a questionnaire to the Supreme Pontiff, an interview not being possible at the time. Below are the written answers given by His Eminence Vazken I.

Question: Your Holiness, all the children of the Armenian nation, spread to the four corners of the world, mark with joy the 27th anniversary of your ordainment. In your opinion, what are the major achievements of Holy Edzhmiadzin in the last 27 years?

Answer: The Good Lord and our devoted people helped us to realize our plans step by step in the last 27 years. The legal and practical conditions created in our country also contributed to our work. We consider the following as important achievements:

First, the repair and restoration of many monasteries and churches in Armenia starting with the Temple of Edzhmiadzin, and the reawakening of religion among our people living in the fatherland.

Secondly, the construction or the reconstruction of the new Catholicate, the Edzhmiadzin printing shop, the monastical guest house of the Holy See of Edzhmiadzin, the monasteries of Holy Geghard, Holy Hripsime, Holy Gayaneh and Holy Khor-Virap and recently the "Alex and Mary Manoogian" Treasure House.

Thirdly, the reorganization of the curriculum and the faculty of the Spiritual Seminary with particular emphasis on the teaching of religion and ecclesiastical science and in an environment of spiritual and moral discipline. The results were quite fruitful; the Spiritual Seminary contributed to our church nearly 200 deacons who are currently serving in various churches of our country. Some of these deacons are serving overseas.

Fourthly, during our reign, natural and close ties were established between the Holy See of Edzhmiadzin and the hierarchical seats of our Church, the dioceses and the communities around the world. Thus, Holy Edzhmiadzin further consolidated its role as the supreme spiritual center of all Armenians.

Today the Holy See of Edzhmiadzin is faithfully following the path of its historical mission.

Lastly, we can mention with pleasure that in the last 27 years our relations with the Eastern and Western Christian sister churches developed in an excellent manner. To that end, the Holy See of Edzhmiadzin actively participates in the world ecclesiastical ecumenical movement and has been a member of the World Council of Churches for many years.

Question: What is your assessment of the current state of the Holy See of Edzhmiadzin from spiritual, economic and administrative perspectives?

Answer: The current financial situation of the Holy See is quite adequate. The Holy See as well as our other monasteries and churches have sufficient incomes to balance their budgets.

Our primary sources of income are voluntary contributions by the congregation on such occasions as baptisms, marriages and funerals; candle sales; and church collections.

However, exceptional expenses, such as the repair of the churches, the construction of new buildings and the needs of the Spiritual Seminary, are met by contributions from our congregation overseas. For example, the recent construction of our Treasure House was realized thanks to a generous contribution by Alex Manoogian.

Question: We are all proud of the venerable traditions of the Armenian church. However, there are some Armenians who believe that certain rules and traditions of the church--such as the issue of celibacy--are in need of a fundamental review. Do you see the need for such a review?

Answer: The Armenian Apostolic Church is one of the oldest churches in the world, and it is natural that it preserve its rules and traditions which have assumed a canonical nature.

Novelty does not necessarily mean progress, particularly with regard to the church.

As for the issue of celibacy, our view is that that practice must be preserved unchanged particularly in monasteries and with regard to high-ranking clergy.

However, we believe that a future episcopal conference will be able to make it possible for canons who have not taken the oath of celibacy to marry under special circumstances.

Question: Specifically, could you state your opinion regarding the wish of many women to find more recognition from the church and to be given more opportunities to participate in the spiritual life of the church?



Answer: The participation of devoted women in our church is a long-standing tradition. In current times, that participation is even more welcome and even essential. An important role has been reserved for our mothers and sisters in family life as well in the public life of the church. Women serve as trustees and even as chairwomen in the ecclesiastical administrative bodies of our country.

In order to encourage women's activities devoted to the church we are contemplating to introduce a special decoration for women to honor their services and contributions to the church.

Question: One of the major problems in the United States is the lack of well-trained Armenian clergy. Is this a general problem in the Armenian church, and, if so, what must be done to resolve the problem?

Answer: We are also concerned about the lack of spiritual servants in our church. In these last 27 years, the Spiritual Seminary of the Holy See of Edzhmiadzin produced a sufficient number of graduates to meet the needs of our domestic dioceses and churches. However, we know that almost all the dioceses overseas do not have adequate numbers of spiritual servants.

It is imperative that the educational institutions of our hierarchical seats carry out more extensive organizational work in order to prepare larger numbers of faithful, bright and devoted spiritual servants.

We believe that work in this direction can also be done in the dioceses--as in the case of the Holy Nerses school in the United States--on condition, however, that the future spiritual servants completely master the Armenian language and have an adequate knowledge of classical Armenian, the history of the Armenian church and manuscript science. It is impossible to picture Armenian spiritual servants who do not have a perfect knowledge of the Armenian language.

Question: How many operational churches are there in Soviet Armenia? What is the state of the relations between the Holy See of Edzhmiadzin and Soviet Armenia?

Answer: There are 4 operational monasteries and 52 churches in Soviet Armenia and the domestic dioceses. The relations between the Holy See and the government authorities are normal. There is an environment of mutual respect. The state gives no material assistance to the church, but it provides every facility to enable the Holy See to purchase all its needs for construction work under favorable conditions and at discounted government prices.

Our government authorities also provide every facility to enable the Holy See to develop on a broad scale its links with our ecclesiastical centers overseas and with other sister churches.

Question: Some of us visited Jerusalem last June, and we are worried about the discord reigning there. Has the situation improved there? What can be done with regard to that issue?

Answer: We learned with pain about the internal disagreements that have emerged in the brotherhood of the Armenian Patriarchate in Jerusalem. We are hopeful that

with joint efforts and through moderation it will be possible to restore brotherly harmony in the brotherhood of Jerusalem in the near future.

Question: The most important problem confronting the Armenian church in the United States is the lack of unity. Recently, Your Holiness issued two letters on this issue stating that unity can be secured either by working from above, that is by starting from the national level and going down to the local and diocese level, or by working from below, that is by starting from the diocese level and going up to the national level.

Have there been new developments at the national level recently? Your Holiness recently embarked on communications with the See of Cilicia in Antilias, [Lebanon]. What is your assessment of the work done in the United States toward unity? Do you think that that work will be crowned with success?

Answer: The reestablishment of ecclesiastical unity under the spiritual authority and blessing of the Holy See of Edzhmiadzin in the Armenian communities of the United States is imperatively essential from canonical, moral and national perspectives.

We will be first to be pleased if such unity materializes. For us, there are no differences among the Armenians of the United States. We consider all Armenians, bar none, as the true spiritual children of the Holy See. It is desirable that unity takes life and returns to our children who have joined the See of Antilias and who consider themselves detached from Holy Edzhmiadzin.

A decision was taken in Antilias in 1956 to detach the Armenian dioceses and churches of the diaspora from Holy Edzhmiadzin and join them to the See of Cilicia in Antilias. That decision has still not been changed. And as long as that decision remains unchanged, it is impossible to establish unity and peace within the Armenian church in the diaspora.

Unity cannot be established by bargaining from positions taken by Antilias.

We hope and desire that our brothers in Antilias and our Armenian children in the United States who have joined them will eventually realize that detaching the Armenian congregation of the diaspora from Holy Edzhmiadzin is a religious and national crime.

The internal crisis of the Armenian church can only be undone by undoing the main reason of the crisis and by a return to the legal situation before 1956 which will maintain Antilias' authority in its entirety over its dioceses in Lebanon, Syria and Cyprus.

Question: We all know that the Armenian church is a national institution and that it plays an important role in many aspects of our social life. Does this in any way run counter to the church's role as a spiritual institution?

Answer: The Armenian Apostolic Church was born and grew in the bosom of the Armenian Christian nation and has been serving that nation for nearly seventeen centuries under the leadership of the Pontificate of All Armenians in Holy Edzhmiadzin. It was under the arches of Holy Edzhmiadzin that the alphabet of

the Armenian language was created and the Armenian literature was born with the translation of the Holy Bible in the 5th century. In the centuries that followed, our manuscripts, sciences and arts flowered under the guardianship of the Armenian church.

It was with the blessing of Holy Edzhmiadzin that Vartan Mamigonian fought in Avarayr to defend the Bible of Christ and the freedom of the fatherland. Throughout the course of the history of the Armenian nation, Christian faith and national consciousness took shape and developed together, one enhancing the meaning of the other, one defending the other and one being a source of inspiration for the other. The Christian vitality of the Armenians is defined by the Armenian Apostolic National Church.

It is even possible to say that the Armenian nation has been a nation of the church throughout its entire history since the 4th century.

Until today, Christianity is the cornerstone of the vitality of the Armenian nation, the source of its creative powers, its fate and its pride.

In that sense, our Mother Church is national. Consequently, the religious and national character of the Armenian Church, far from being self-contradictory, has always been a monolithic and harmonious form of existence and mission. The same situation is true today.

We take pleasure to have this opportunity to extend our pontifical blessings to the editors of your valuable paper and its readers.

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CSO: 4605 110

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

MEMO ADDRESSED TO MINISTER OF EDUCATION ON ARMENIAN SCHOOLS

Tehran ALIK in Armenian 27 Dec 82 p 2

[Article by Artak Archbishop Manukian, prelate of the Tehran Armenian Diocese and Levon Aharonian, president of the Diocesan Council of the Tehran Armenian Diocese: "Letter Submitted to the Minister of Education and Training"]

[Text/ Mr Ali Akbar Parvaresh, Esteemed Minister of Education and Training of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

Regarding the noted questions pertaining to Armenian schools, as a follow-up to previous correspondence and talks, we should like to bring the following to your attention.

As we have already stated, the existence of the Armenian people and their continued existence in various countries of the world, which include Iran, is based on two important stimuli, that is, on the religious beliefs which are inherent in the Armenian Independent Church, and on the Armenian language and culture. If one of these two stimuli did not exist or were destroyed, the continued existence of this people would be in jeopardy. Precisely because of this, Armenians living in various countries, including Iran, have built churches specific to them and have established schools, because next to the family they have considered the school to be the most important means to preserve and propagate religious beliefs and principles, as well as language and culture.

It is clear from these considerations that recognition of Armenians in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran as one of the religious minorities officially recognized in this country, in actual fact constitutes recognition of this community, with all its specific religious, cultural, and social features, and hence constitutes the guarantee of the continued existence of this religious minority, which naturally should be provided through implementation of special regulations, proceeding from the various principles embodied in the Constitution including Article 14.

Proceeding from the above, the Persian Armenians place particular expectations on their schools, since they believe that the study of various sciences in schools, although very important, takes a secondary place to matters of upbringing, that is, to development of the character and personality of the

students, inasmuch as it has been stated time and again by this country's education and other officials that the first responsibility of the school is to prepare religious believers and responsible individuals, with the importance of level of education proper secondary to the above.

The Persian Armenians consider their school to be an environment and means by which Armenian children and young people will be brought up as religious believers and conscious Armenians and will preserve their religious and cultural uniqueness.

On the basis of the above explanations, and bearing in mind that Armenian schools are in existence at the present time--you also refer to these schools as Armenian schools in your talk on 21 Oct 1982--we feel that we must draw your attention to the fact that from the point of view of the Armenians that which makes these schools unique is the points listed below, ignoring any one of which will deny the Armenian schools of their uniqueness and will worry and alarm the students, their parents, and the Armenian community in general:

1. Only Armenian students shall be enrolled in Armenian schools, inasmuch as only in this way does it become possible to teach pupils Armenian culture and religious customs without practical difficulties.
2. As three Persian Armenian religious leaders have already stated both orally and in writing, the teaching of religion in Armenian schools shall be done in conformity with the customs of the Armenian Church and in the Armenian language since, constituting one of the laws of the Armenian Church, it is immutable.
3. The Armenian language shall be taught as part of the curriculum, since otherwise its practical teaching will become impossible.
4. The atmosphere prevailing in the schools should be in conformity with the fundamentals of the Armenian Church, the religious and social customs characteristic of this minority, since from an educational point of view this exerts very great influence on development of the character and personality of the pupils.
5. These schools should properly preserve the religious traditions of the Armenian Church, with the holding of Armenian celebrations, religious and other, since the educational influence of this is no less than that of the factor noted in Paragraph 4.

Taking into consideration the points mentioned above, application of which is an essential condition for the existence of the Armenian schools, applicable rules should naturally be specified in regard to these schools, in the establishment of which one must especially take into consideration the importance of the school principal and his influence on the education and upbringing of the pupils: the principals and teachers of these schools should whenever possible be members of this minority who meet the requirements, or else must be persons who have the requisite familiarity with and respect for the religious beliefs and principles of the Armenian people, as well as for their ethnic customs.

GROWTH OF RELIGIOUS ZEAL AMONG YOUNG ANALYZED

Kuwait AL-'ARABI in Arabic No 291, Feb 83 pp 40-43

/Article by Fahmi Huwaydi: "The Awakening of Moslem Youth: A Call for Upright Guidance, Not Elimination"/

/Text/ The focal point of this book is that the awakening of Islamic youth is a resource that deserves to be properly guided, not resisted and eliminated. The title of this book is "The Islamic Awakening, between Repudiation and Extremism." The author is Dr Yusuf al-Qirdawi, dean of the Faculty of Islamic Law at Qatar University. In last January's issue, we began a journey through the pages of three books that dealt with the crisis of the contemporary state of Islam. Two of them were by Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali; in these, the analytical and diagnostic approach was prominent, in a comprehensive view of this situation, in its various foundations and elements. The third is this book that is before us, which plunges deep into an investigation of the issue of young people, in the goal of remedying the problem in radical fashion--the problem of the society that produced these young people and helped push them in the directions in which they went.

In the introduction to his book, Dr al-Qirdawi elucidates a group of important questions for us which attempt to set the issue in its proper framework and stimulate the reader's awareness of something that is more than a phenomenon which is to be condemned. In this process, he confronts us with a major question, which is, is the intention in the attack against religious excess and extremism to bring fanatics back to the platform of moderation that Islam endorses, or does it have another objective, which is to strike out at the Islamic movement before it attains its full growth?

In answering, it seems that the writer tends toward the latter possibility, although he mentions it while quoting from others. Two points offer support for this approach. First, these young people did not attract the attention of the authorities until they took a position as part of the opposition forces, and second, the authorities and security agencies in some countries really did welcome certain extremist movements, as if they considered that they could hit out at other Islamic movements through them, then hit at them themselves afterward, when their usefulness had ended!



After making this reference, and before getting into the heart of the matter, Dr al-Qirdawi files a case against the present circumstances, with their various symbols, putting everyone in the dock and reporting "Many people bear the responsibility along with them, and indeed ahead of them, although they have tried to protect their innocence. This responsibility is borne by fathers and educators, scholars and guides, leaders and rulers, who belong to Islam in name and title but do not give it its due in terms of compliance and submission. Islam, with them, has existed as an alien force in its own home, and the proselytizers of Islam have lived as aliens in their own countries."

He then continues his case: "The strange thing is that we reject the young people on account of extremism, but we do not reject ourselves for laxity. We reject the young people for excess, but we do not reject ourselves for negligence."

However, he forgives, and accuses, the official religious institutions, attributing much to them in this area. He says that they will "no longer be able to perform this task which is requested of them, as long as the political authorities will not leave them alone, and refrain from using them as an instrument by which to support their actions and a mouthpiece by which to praise their positions."

Thus he appeals for an understanding of the young people's position. He addresses himself to the subject of extremism or excess in religion from a number of angles. He decides to condemn Islamic instructions in favor of excess, then attempts to observe its manifestations and signs, in the form of fanaticism of opinion, extreme insistence on compulsion and harshness in the appeal that ill will be borne toward others and they be renounced on some occasions.

Under the heading "Let Us Look for the Causes," he once again asserts. "The phenomenon we face is a complex, compound one, its causes are numerous, diverse and intertwined." However, he points out that one of the basic reasons for excess is "a weakness of perception of the true nature of religion, which arises from a state of being half-educated, where the person who is half-educated, where the person who is half-educated thinks that he has entered into the intimate circle of active persons, but is ignorant of a very great deal." The failing of being half-educated in matters of religion leads to a group of negative results, foremost of which are:

Adherence to the letter and the outward appearance of texts without making the effort to understand their content and know their significance and the benefits they are trying to achieve. This creates a glaring confusion in the treatment of the affairs of human transactions, and leads to harm and distress.

Exploitation of fragmentary matters and matters that are marginal to issues that threaten the identity of the nation.

Here he calls to mind, as an example of such obstinacy with respect to religion, the story of al-'Urabi, who went before 'Abd-allah ibn 'Umar and asked him about the blood of mosquitoes. He was asked "Where are you from?" He

said, from the people of Iraq." Ibn 'Umar replied, "You ask about the blood of mosquitoes and you have killed the son of the prophet of God?" (He meant al-Husayn, may God be content with him.)

Excessive deprivation, and the tendency to be restrictive and strict with Moslems, although the Koran, the sayings and doings of the prophet and the ancestors warn against that.

Making notions obscure and confused in the minds of young people, prompting them to adopt hasty, erroneous positions on matters of the utmost importance, such as faith and the absence of it. Dr al-Qirdawi pauses before the Koranic verse "Those who do not rule in accordance with God's revelations are infidels" (The Table, 44). That is one of the most conspicuous points that are mis-understood by young people. He quotes ibn 'Abbas's statement that "it is not an absence of faith that is transferred from the creed of another religion." He quotes statements by others, to which he gives greater weight, to the effect that the absence of faith here is a matter of abandoning governance in accordance with God's revelations through rejection and disavowal, the statement of a third group, to the effect that it means the abandonment of governance by all of God's revelations, including rule by unification and Islam, and the statements by still others that it is an absence of faith that is transferred from the creed of another religion.

Pursuing ambiguous materials in the form of texts that involve more than one meaning the strongly established texts which are clear in their meaning and specific in their notions.

An introverted preoccupation with ideas that they receive quoted from books without proper instruction, discussion or review. This caused ancestral scholars to give warning about them, stating, "Let us not take the Koran from manuscript copiers or learning from journalists." (By "manuscript copiers" they meant people who memorized the Koran from manuscripts only, and did not learn it through narration and oral presentation through their sheikhs and well-educated readers. By "journalists" they meant people who derived learning from papers alone but did not study under men of learning and graduate under their aegis.)

Deficiency in understanding the nature of reality and the laws of existence: "You can find some of them wanting something that does not exist, demanding something that is not to be found, and imagining something that does not happen, hoping to change all of society by illusory methods and fantastic means with a courage and self-sacrifice that are not concerned with results or swayed by death." In this, they ignore two important things. /First is/ the law of gradualism; here he cites the story of the caliph 'Umar ibn al-'Aziz, and his son, who rejected his father for failing to eliminate the remnants of the deviant acts and injustices that flourished in the context of the Omayyad caliphs who had preceded him. 'Umar made his famous statement, "Do not rush, my son; God found fault with alcoholic beverages twice in the Koran and prohibited them the third time. I am afraid to impose what is right on people



all at once; a person who calls for it all at once is a person who stirs up strife."

The second law that these people ignore in the depths of their unawareness of actual conditions is that for everything there is an appointed time, in which it will reach maturity and completeness, and the thing must not be rushed before it reaches the time that is set aside for the likes of it. Its deficiencies here would resemble the bitterness of a fruit that is picked before it ripens.

While being half-educated about religion is a precipitous downward slide that leads to extremism on the part of individuals, there are other elements, related to "circumstances," which help drive them in this direction, among them the spread of corruption in societies, blatant social injustice and the encroachment of currents and patterns of westernization, which make young people fall into the abyss of a sense of alienation. Another element is the feeling among young Moslems of an ongoing latent and open conspiracy against Islam on the part of many parties, domestic and foreign. Still another element is the spread of the phenomenon of the pre-emption of the call for comprehensive Islam: "The call for a positive, integrated Islam, an ideology and system of life, has become taboo. The Islam that is permitted is the 'accommodating' Islam, the Islam of dervishes and people who traffic in religion, the Islam of the eras of backwardness and decline, the Islam of the commemorations of religious figures and occasions, an Islam which marches in the cavalcade of tyrants and wishes them long life!" Aside from that, adds Dr al-Qirdawi, the reasons for extremism in matters related to circumstances reach their ultimate point when the authorities resort to the use of violence and physical and mental torture. This violence does not counter extremism, as they imagine, but enhances and supports it.

What is the cure? What are the means to achieve it, and who will carry it out?

Dr al-Qirdawi raises these questions, then replies that, just as the causes are numerous and varied, so must the means for the cure be numerous and varied. Since some of these causes are intellectual, spiritual, social and political, the cure must be carried out on these fronts as well. That is a cure that will not in any event be effected by a magic gesture; in its consummation, it must also be subjected to the rule of the designated time period. In his answer, he also rejects the thinking of "fatalists" who ascribe the causes of the phenomenon to society alone, just as he refuses to make young people totally responsible and absolve the society of this responsibility--"the responsibility is a common one, and everyone has his own role."

On the responsibility of the society, where the cure is to start, Dr al-Qirdawi stipulates that the point of departure should be for the society to acknowledge the fact that it belongs to Islam, and acknowledge the commitment and conduct that that affiliation demands: "Our rulers must believe that they are living in the nations of Islam and are ruling people who are Moslems. Every people has the right to be ruled in accordance with its beliefs and to have its constitutions and laws formed in expression of its beliefs, values and traditions."

The second step is for us not to put these young people in ivory towers, seeking excuses or justifications for them for the broad gap or deep abyss that has been created between us and them. Our position regarding them must not be that of people directing accusations, with our entire concern being to underline their ills, inflate their negative points, contest their acts and wish the most extreme punishments on them: "We must deal with them in a spirit of compassionate fatherliness and contented brotherliness. We must take the position of persons who defend their stands. If we are not good at making a defense, for one reason or another, then let us take the position of a just judge, one who condemns only on the basis of irrefutable evidence and is not biased toward the plaintiff or the defendant."

Here the author calls on everyone who addresses himself to the issue of extremism not to resort to intimidation or exaggeration but "to be steeped in balance and wisdom, lest he in turn be acting as an extremist in his discussion of extremism and ways of dealing with it." Extremism in religious behavior is often a reaction to a countervailing extremism--extremism in dissociating oneself from religion. Here this form of extremism is a natural matter, because it conforms to the laws of action and reaction, and he is to be commended for warning those who have gone astray to return to the moderate center so that consequently they may come back and meet with the former in the center of the road.

He also warns against confronting renunciation with like renunciation, basing himself on the prophetic tradition which holds "Whoever acts as an infidel as a Moslem has acted as an infidel": "The truth is that if we do this we fall into the same pit that they have fallen into. The prophetic tradition does not number, among those who acted as infidels as Moslems people who did so on account of an interpretation and doubt that existed among them, as proper traditions have indicated. The great mass of Moslem scholars who have done research have refrained from renouncing the Kharijites, in spite of their insistence on renouncing everyone in the nation who bore enmity toward them and on declaring that it was permissible to shed their blood and take their property. Those traditions that described them as deviants with respect to religion are not proper ones."

Regarding the responsibility of the society, Dr al-Qirdawi also directs an appeal to the rulers of the Moslems by saying, "Open the windows to the breeze of freedom." He adds, "We must go beyond these old wornout methods which intelligence and security agency personnel are always thinking about: these are the methods of violence, torture, and physical liquidation. We must spread about a climate of freedom, welcome criticism, and greet the spirit of advice regarding religion. It is in a climate of freedom that ideas come to light and that people with learning can discuss them and shed the light of criticism on them, instead of keeping them in underground basements, taught without discussion, presented without opposition, and becoming more and more aggravated and exacerbated with each passing day. We must realize that the origin of this extremism is thought and therefore the cure for it must come about through thought also."

The other side of the prescription for a cure that Dr al-Qirdawi presents addresses itself to young people, with an insistent appeal for understanding Islam in its proper form, which can come about if their platform is sound and devoid of acts of deviation and rashness. This demand is not hard to meet; generations of the nation's scholars who have been concerned to set out the rules and regulations necessary for proper understanding and deduction have engaged in this. It is known as the science of the principles of religious jurisprudence, which means Islamic thinking with respect to the derivation of practical provisions from the detailed evidence regarding them.

In the context of this appeal, the author has sketched out a group of signposts which will contribute to the realization of this proper understanding of the teachings of Islam, in the forefront of which are:

The fact that a knowledge of Islamic law can be acquired not just by learning its fragmented texts; rather, it is necessary to bring its branches back to its roots, and its fragments back to its overall essence. If a person comes upon a stipulation from a holy verse or a tradition of the prophet whose external form is of benefit to a ruler, and adheres fixedly to it without comparing it with other traditions, with the general guidance of the prophet, or with the guidance of the companions of the prophet--indeed without bringing it to its Koranic roots themselves and understanding it in the light of the general meanings of Islamic law--he will not be spared confusion in understanding and disturbance in deduction, and he will thus be hitting parts of Islamic law with other parts of it.

There are various grades in the provisions of Islamic law; they are not all on the same level in terms of their assured validity and consequently in terms of the permissibility of entertaining differences over them. There are various grades in the provisions of Islamic law; they are not all on the same level in terms of their assured validity and consequently in terms of the permissibility of entertaining differences over them. There are conjectural provisions which are the field of individual contemplation, which admit of numerous interpretations and explanations, as is the case with most of the provisions related to transactions, and there are provisions related to belief in which only categorical acceptance and conviction are of use. There are provisions which are established in the holy book, the sayings and doings of the prophet, and the unanimity of scholars, which have reached the level of categorical acceptance if they have not become part of the essential elements of religion. There are provisions which are of necessity known through religion, connected to unification and the prophetic mission. "Therefore it is not permissible to place all provisions in the same context and on the same level, so that some people will hasten to attach the label of an absence of faith, deviation or apostasy on everyone who is opposed to a given provision just because it is well known, without distinguishing between roots and branches or making a distinction between what has been established by texts and what has been established by individual contemplation, or between what is categorical and conjectural in the texts and what is essential and non-essential in religion. Everything has its own status and its own provisions.

Just as various provisions have their own levels and grades, so do acts have levels and grades. There are the religious obligations whose mandatory nature is dictated in absolute form and to which Moslems are bound. The obligations are of two kinds, obligations which some people perform, which absolve other persons, such as combat, and individual obligations which are incumbent on all Moslems, such as the five pillars of Islam. There are the obligations which legislators command, although they do not rise to the level of a categorical nature, there are the incontestable sayings and doings of the prophet, which the prophet applied himself to assiduously and neglected only rarely, although they are not binding on Moslems, and there are the preferable things which the legislators wish to have done, but whose neglect will cause no distress.

In the proper form of Islam, religious obligation takes precedence over duty, duty over the sayings and doings of the prophet, and the incontestable sayings and doings of the prophet over the preferable things. However, these levels become mixed together and confused in the lives of Moslems, making it mandatory that these disruptions be corrected anew.

In addition, there are grades among things that are prohibited. There are the truly prohibited things (which involve cardinal and lesser sins).

There are matters that are obscure to most people, and people who succumb to them succumb to prohibited things. There are things which are reprehensible as a result of interdiction, which are closer to forbidden things, and there are things which are reprehensible as a result of discretion, which are closer to permissible things. This gradation must be clear, so that some people will not be preoccupied by resisting reprehensible things, or things over which there are disputes, and neglect prohibited things, while many people devote themselves to resisting the lesser sins as they neglect the cardinal ones, and so on.

The difference in grades of acts, matters which have been commanded and matters which have been prohibited will of necessity lead to differences in levels among people. "Therefore, some devoutly religious people err most grievously when they deal with all people as if they were on a single level, without distinguishing between the particular and the general, between the lowest degree and the highest, or between the strong and the weak, although religion can accommodate everyone, in accordance with their grades and their capabilities." For this reason, "it is an essential attribute of jurisprudence that one evaluate the levels, circumstances and excuses of people."

Will Dr al-Qirdawi's statements remain a cry in the wilderness, or will they reach the ears of the people who are concerned? Perhaps and maybe!

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CSO: 4404/229

MINISTER DISCUSSES DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIAL PUBLIC SECTOR

Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic No 2849, 17 Jan 83 pp 28-29

[Interview with Fu'ad Abu Zaghlah, minister of industry and mineral resources, by Tahiyah 'Abd al-Wahhab: "Minister of Industry to ROSE AL-YUSUF: Do Not be Unfair to Public Sector; Industrial Production Growth Rate Is 13 Percent; 700 Million Pounds Needed for Development"]

[Text] "Nobody denies that the public sector is one of the most significant accomplishments of the July revolution and that it is the fundamental mainstay of economic development in Egypt. Those who say otherwise are a minority with no influence and no weight." With these words, Engineer Fu'ad Abu Zaghlah, the minister of industry and mineral resources, began his interview with me on what is being said about developing the industrial public sector in a manner commensurate with its size and with the role it plays in pushing the wheel of the Egyptian economy forward.

[Question] In your capacity as the exchairman of the Iron and Steel Company--one of the biggest industrial companies in Egypt--what is the true nature of the so-called law for development of the industrial public sector, especially since this sector shoulders the main burden in the development plan?

[Answer] For the public sector to be developed and put in a position whereby it contributes fundamentally to the industrial development, several elements must be first available for this development.

The so-called law for development of the public sector is tantamount to amendment of the establishments and companies law which had been abolished and then amended. The amendment projected currently is an amendment concerning the system of management of the economic units so that they may be managed soundly and may achieve the development plan drawn up for them.

For example, the board of directors of an economic unit will have all the authority and powers to manage the unit without the intervention of the ministry concerned or of any other authority, except the product-pricing authority. This intervention is due to several considerations.

The second thing is determining the workers' basic wages in the economic unit. Here, the state is the party with the power to set a social, not economic,



price for the products. Therefore, the state should not be unfair to the public sector by saddling it with burdens for which this sector is not responsible and then asking it to turn out profits. A commodity's production cost must be studied and then a suitable profit margin must be added. The government can then bring the economic unit to account on this basis. Moreover, a compensation equal to the difference between the economic price and the social price must be established so that the unit may not ultimately appear to be losing whereas the truth is the opposite.

In all other respects, the boards of directors have been given all the powers to develop the products and to completely free the system of incentives and bonuses.

#### Role of Specialized Authorities

Here emerges the role of the Central Accounting Agency in watching the financial conduct of the economic units. This is a fundamental and important role for the right management of the financial situation in each unit. There is no place here for excluding this aspect, namely the agency's control.

Then comes the role of the minister in charge who supervises this sector. Constitutionally, how could he do this when all the powers are bestowed upon the companies' boards of directors?

At this point comes the role of the so-called specialized authorities which are agencies that prepare the data and reports on the companies' activity, the companies' statements on the products they offer and on other aspects so that there may be coordination between the ministry and companies and so that the ministry concerned may meet the companies' needs, help them solve their external problems and supply them with foreign currency without intervention on the part of these authorities in the affairs of the boards of directors or in the methods these boards use to implement the production plans.

The second element of development lies in reforming the financing structures. It had been said that there were industrial investments and we began to act on this basis only to be surprised by the absence of a budget [for industrial investments] in the previous plan, rather, by the absence of an industrial plan altogether. Consequently, there was a shortage of financing which burdened all these units which started borrowing from banks to meet their financial needs. This resulted in a flaw in the financing structures of these units.

#### 700 Million Pounds for Development

The industrial public sector includes, according to the minister, 117 companies with a total capital of 5 billion pounds that need 700 million pounds for development and growth. This is why a committee was formed from the Ministries of Finance and Industry to find out all the financing problems concerning these companies.

The committee has concluded its work with several resolutions to solve these problems according to a plan to be implemented over several years. These recommendations will be presented to the Policies Committee. For the first time in 10 years, a sum of 3.75 billion pounds is allocated for industry within the 5-year plan.

What happened last year is that the economic units borrowed from the banks 740 million pounds for which they have paid 124 million pounds in interest.

[Question] What about the workers of the public sector companies?

[Answer] The minister of cabinet affairs is currently developing law No 48 which is the labor law governing the workers of the public sector companies. There is then a number of other problems, such as the exchange rate, the delayed opening of credit facilities for the public sector, the bank loans and the burdens the companies shoulder as a result of open-drawing accounts which affect the economics of these companies. There are also the taxes levied on industrial profits--taxes which must be reconsidered.

Despite all this, says the minister of industry, the industrial public sector has performed a main role in the Egyptian economy. The years of the June [1967] and October [1973] wars are a proof and a testimony to this fact. The public sector has shouldered the burden of meeting all the local needs, despite the inadequacy of the replacement and renewal operations in the factories. This proves that this sector plays the major role in the state's economic growth.

#### Unit's Interest First

Engineer Abu Zaghlal adds: The growth rate in the industrial public sector's production amounted last year to 13 percent of the gross production, despite the commitment not to raise the prices and despite the many problems accumulated throughout the recent years. This is why the idea of developing and streamlining the industrial public sector has emerged.

But I wonder, the minister goes on to say, how can we ask the public sector to turn out profits and then saddle it with burdens for which it is not responsible?

[Question] Why isn't the principle of industrial democracy applied in the companies?

[Answer] The interest of each company is embodied in two factors: The affairs of the economic unit itself and, second, the affairs of its workers. We are not considering here representation of the workers in the boards of directors for the interest of the worker alone. But we must also take into consideration the interest of the economic unit in terms of its compliance with the plan set for it. Consequently, the worker nominated to the membership of a board of directors must have an adequate degree of political and social education. This education is made available to the worker through organized educational programs offered by the Workers University. The serious elements

are then selected to participate effectively in managing the economic unit. Two goals are thus achieved simultaneously: The interest of the worker and the interest of the unit in which he works.

[Question] Having reviewed all the points concerning the future of the Egyptian public sector and reviewed the factors that have led to the decline of industry in the past 10 years, the discussion leads us to an important question, namely: Why do some chairmen of the boards of directors and some technical experts of the public sector desert this sector for the joint or private sector?

[Answer] The poor wages and salaries paid by the public sector and the rising prices have had a clear impact and are a basic reason for the emigration of the capabilities and expertise to the joint or private sector or to foreign countries. Consequently, we have to raise the workers' wages and improve the incentives and make them commensurate with production. The wages should be set according to experience and the ability to innovate and develop.

As of last year, we established a system of incentives in the companies in accordance with which each company is brought to account on the basis of an evaluation of its efforts, its performance and its production volume. This system was actually applied to the Iron and Steel Company when I was the chairman of its board of directors.

Concluding, Engineer Fu'ad Abu Zaghlal said: We must all work in unity for Egypt within a framework of purity and of a clean conscience, putting the country's interest first and without forgetting that the country's prosperity is prosperity for its sons.

8494

CSO: 4504/173



# IMPROVED ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE BY PUBLIC SECTOR CITED

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 24 Jan 83 p 8

[Article by Usamah Saraya: "Two Billion Pounds for Public Sector Investments in 6 Months; Agricultural Production Increased by 39 Million Pounds and Industrial Production Increased by 41 Percent Above Target"]

[Text] Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, the minister of planning, has stated that the investments consumed by the public sector in the first 6 months of 1982-83 [FY] have amounted to 1,984,400,000 pounds representing 37.6 percent of the approved total plan. Of the 1,984,400,000 pounds, the sum made available by the National Investment Bank has amounted to 1,514,000,000 pounds or the equivalent of 58.9 percent of the bank's total commitment. The minister has also asserted that agricultural production consisting of summer crops and (Nile flood-season crops) has risen by 39 million pounds or by 1.5 percent over the corresponding period of last year.

In the followup report on the plan indicators during this period--a report discussed by the Council of Ministers in its latest meeting--the minister of planning adds that the industrial activities of the public sector have realized a production valued at 2,291,300,000 pounds representing 48.9 percent of the targeted production for the year, with an increase of 41.5 percent over the production achieved in the corresponding period of last year. Metal industries head the list of the activities in which the production has increased, with a growth of 21.1 percent, followed by the food industries with an increase of 18.4 percent, the mining and ceramics industry with an increase of 14.6 percent, the chemical industries with an increase of 11.3 percent and the yarn and textile industries with an increase of 5.9 percent.

The report also points out new indicators, the most important of which are:

An increase in crude oil production amounting to 5 percent above last year, with the produced volume amounting to 17 million tons or 46 percent of the targeted production.

The electric energy produced amounted to 9,279,000,000 kilowatt hours or 48.5 percent of the energy targeted for the year and amounting to 19,107,000,000 kilowatt hours or 103.2 percent of the electric energy produced last year.

The deficit in the balance of payments has improved by 565 million pounds, dropping to 398.2 million pounds, compared to 965.8 million pounds in the corresponding period of 1981-82. The deficit in the trade balance is estimated at 1,326,300,000 pounds amounting to 38 percent of the targeted deficit for the entire year compared to 1,709,500,000 pounds in the first half of 1981-82. This means a drop of 464.2 million pounds.

The invisible balance for this half has also produced a surplus amounting to 928 million pounds or 48 percent of the surplus targeted for the entire year. This means that the deficit in this half has dropped below what was planned for the year. If this trend continues during the second half of the year, the deficit may not exceed 1 billion pounds.

The payments for imported goods have dropped from 3,175,900,000 pounds to nearly 2,946,900,000 pounds, with a decrease of 229 million pounds or 7.2 percent [below last year]. The remittances from Egyptians working abroad, both in cash and in kind, rose from nearly 774.8 million pounds to nearly 846.4 million pounds, increasing by 71.6 million pounds or 9.2 percent [over the corresponding period of last year].

Dr al-Janzuri has added that the plan report indicates an increase in the importation of semiprocessed materials required to achieve the private sector's development goals and a drop in the manufactured and unprocessed consumer goods. This indicates that the policy of streamlining importation without currency transfers has achieved some of its goals during the followup period.

The figures of the state's general budget also demonstrate that the deficit in this budget amounts to nearly 493.8 million pounds (without the oil and Suez Canal surpluses) or 29.3 percent of the estimated deficit volume for the entire year. Should this trend continue during the second half of the plan, the said deficit may not exceed 1 billion pounds during the year. This improvement is due to the increased revenues on the one hand and to the streamlined spending on the other. The rate of implementation in the current revenues has exceeded the rate of implementation in the current spending, with the first rate amounting to 45.4 percent and the second to 42.4 percent.

The minister of planning has asserted that despite the accomplishments made by the financial policy of streamlined spending generally, the subsidies have amounted to 1,303,600,000 pounds during the first half of the plan, nearly 63.9 percent of the targeted subsidy for the entire year--a subsidy amounting to 2,040,400,000 pounds--keeping in mind that the world prices for most of the imported and subsidized goods have decreased, especially the prices of grains. Should the spending for subsidies in the second half of the plan continue to maintain this rate, the value of the subsidy may exceed considerably the sums allocated in the budget for the purpose. This is liable to raise the consumption rate and reduce the saving rate and, consequently, create a flaw in the plan's balance.

8494

CSO: 4504/173

LIBYA

BRIEFS

LIBYAN-IRANIAN AIRLINE COOPERATION--Tripoli, 1 Mar (JANA)--Talks began this morning between the Libyan civil aviation on organizing air transport between the two countries and aspects of cooperation in the field of training and aircraft maintenance. The talks are held in the framework of strengthening relations in accordance with the provisions of the agreements on cooperation concluded between the Jamahiriyah and Iran. [Text] [LD011514 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1445 GMT 1 Mar 83]

CSO: 4500/120

## AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF HAOUZ PLAIN DESCRIBED

Casablanca LE MATIN DU SAHARA in French 29 Jan 83 pp 4-5

[Text] "We have issued a challenge to the weather and ourselves, and we have decided to achieve a million hectares under irrigation" (His Majesty Hassan II, 14 March 1974).

Morocco, an agricultural country par excellence, has since independence dawned pursued a bold and effective farm policy based on meeting the needs of a population which is in large part rural (60 percent in 1980) and in the process of constant growth.

The dam policy launched by His Majesty Hassan II, the goal of which is the irrigation of [line or lines missing from the text here] year 2000, is but a brilliant demonstration of this will.

A considerable effort has been made to guarantee self-sufficiency in food.

In fact, as compared to the 65,000 hectares under irrigation just after independence was won, Morocco [line or lines missing from the text here] record time of 25 years for the irrigation of more than 760,000 hectares.

The establishment of the regional development offices (10 throughout the kingdom) has given impetus to the farm policy in our country. For example, the farm sector saw a change in policy in the course of the 5 years between 1973 and 1978. This change was made with a view to broadening activities and making a more ambitious choice of goals in order to achieve speedier and more consistent results. In other words, this was an effort toward greater social justice and equity in the distribution of the national income within the country, among the regions, among zones, and among individuals, through the farm program.

The pursuit of this goal was designed:

- To increase food resources and the export of processed products;
- To develop production; and
- To make investments profitable.

The Haouz Plain, long a farm region in which the age-old irrigation systems reveal considerable mastery, benefiting now from the concern of his majesty the king and his enlightened and progressive policy, has been able to move into the front ranks in terms of modern irrigation areas.

Thus the areas equipped and irrigated in modern fashion will increase from 36,000 hectares now in use to 190,000 by the year 2000, in this way playing an important role in both the regional and national strategy of economic and social development.

Similarly, the hydroagricultural equipping of the Haouz Plain remains a rationalizing factor in the development of the territory, making the economic development of the region possible through the creation of jobs, and making of this region a leading focus of development.

M. Benhida

#### Achievements and Future Prospects

##### A) Establishment of the Haouz Regional Agricultural Development Office (ORMVAH)

Created by Royal Decree No 831-66 dated 22 October 1966, the Haouz Regional Agricultural Development Office is a public body endowed with legal status and financial autonomy.

Placed under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, the Haouz Regional Agricultural Development Office is administered by a board of directors headed by the minister of agriculture and agrarian reform, and its administration is supervised by a technical committee over which the governor of the province of Marrakesh or El Kelaa presides, and which is headed by a director who sees to the administration of all of the departments and carries out the decisions of the board of directors.

The departmental structure was established by a decree of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, according to which the Haouz Office has seven departments, each managing six bureaus.

The rural activities of the Office are carried out by six CMV in central Haouz and six in Tassaout Amont (Upstream Tassaout), controlled by four subdivisions (agriculture, installations, network management and equipment).

##### B) Description of the Haouz Office Sphere of Action

Located between the Haut Atlas in the south and the Jbilet in the north, the Office has its sphere of action within the Tensift economic region, straddling two provinces--Marrakesh and El Kelaa, from Sraghna on, and a small part of the province of Azilal.

Extending over an area of 456,000 hectares, the sphere of action of the Office has the following characteristics:

##### 1) Climate

--Temperature, average maximum--37.7°; average minimum--4.9°.

--Rainfall, average--242 mm; maximum 469 mm (in 1939); minimum--107 mm (in 1981).

The high average temperature, with a very wide range, low humidity and intensive evaporation provide the Haouz Office zone with a hot, dry climate of the continental type, which falls on the boundary between the semiarid and arid categories.

## 2) Water Resources

The sphere of action of the Haouz Office is crossed by a number of water courses, in which the average annual flow is as follows:

--Tensift Basin  $724.10^6 \text{ m}^3$

--N'Fis  $106.10^6 \text{ m}^3$

--Reraya  $58.10^6 \text{ m}^3$

--Zat  $150.10^6 \text{ m}^3$

--Rdat  $120.10^6 \text{ m}^3$

--Secondary wadi  $56.10^6 \text{ m}^3$

--Tassaout Basin  $895.10^6 \text{ m}^3$

--Tassaout  $370.10^6 \text{ m}^3$

--Lakhdar  $505.10^6 \text{ m}^3$

--Secondary wadis  $20.10^6 \text{ m}^3$

Total-- $1619.10^6 \text{ m}^3$ .

Thus it can be seen that the Haouz water resources, even if they were mobilized entirely, would not suffice, because of the size of the area suited to irrigation, which comes to about 265,000 hectares.

## 2) Population

--Total--1,300,000 inhabitants

--Rural--500,000 inhabitants

--Density--110 persons per square kilometer, among the highest in the kingdom

--Number of farmers--92,000

--Active farm population--200,000

--Jobs required (number of labor days)--21 million

--Jobs available (number of labor days)--50 million.

The structure of this population is as follows:

--Males--53.4 percent, including 44 percent under 14 years of age

--51 percent under 20 years of age

--And barely 5 percent over 60.

The active male farm population accounts for 17 to 18 percent of the total of the rural population, and periodically suffers from rather serious underemployment.

4) Landowning Structure of the Sphere of Action of the Haouz Office  
(in percentages)

	Central Haouz	Tassaout Amont
Privately owned	70	58.3
Grazing land	10.7	--
Collective	0.4	34
Private state domain		
--allocated	3.6	3.7
--not allocated	14.3	2.8
Inalienable property [property devoted to religious purposes]	1	1.2

Thus in the light of these simple figures, it should be noted that in addition to the relatively limited water resources and the aridity of the climate, the difficulties in the sphere of action of the Office are accentuated by the numerous types of land status, as the table above indicates, and the nature of the landowning structure, of which a substantial number of small operations is characteristic (three-quarters of the farm operations involve less than 5 hectares).

5) Use of the Land

--Total area--456,00 hectares

--Useful farm area--351,000 hectares

--Including: 192,000 hectares in grain, 14,800 in fodder crops, 6,600 in truck gardening crops, and for industrial crops, 1,200 hectares in beets, 1,200 in cotton, 38,000 in olive groves, 5,600 in apricot orchards, 5,900 in citrus

fruits, 2,600 in almond trees, 5,100 in vineyards and miscellaneous, 77,700 hectares lying fallow, and 105,000 hectares put to various uses, including 25,000 in forests, 50,000 uncultivated, and 30,000 in pasturage.

#### 6) Livestock Production

Herd Structure (all figures as printed)

	Purebred		Mixed Breeds	
	<u>El Kelaa</u>	<u>Marrakesh</u>	<u>El Kelaa</u>	<u>Marrakesh</u>
Number of cows	1,905	11,430	363	15,023
Total herd	1,140	6,309	848	9,325

  

	Local Breeds		Total	
	<u>El Kelaa</u>	<u>Marrakesh</u>	<u>El Kelaa</u>	<u>Marrakesh</u>
Number of cows	47,609	41,561	50,342	40,052
Total herd	26,399	24,429	27,902	68,014

  

	<u>El Kelaa</u>	<u>Marrakesh</u>
Sheep	216,961	246,418
Goats	13,185	32,811

The milk production totals are 43,163 tons for Marrakesh and 25,392 tons for El Kelaa.

#### II) Responsibilities of the Haouz Regional Agricultural Development Office

Within the framework of the policy established by his majesty's government, the Haouz Regional Agricultural Development Office is responsible for promoting farm development in its sphere of activity.

It is undertaking:

- The execution of farm water installation projects;
- The reorganization of landowning structures;
- The installation of communal equipment and national promotions, collaborating with the local collectives;
- The intensification of land development with a view to the improvement of crop production;
- The popularization of new techniques and methods capable of improving farm production;
- The professional staffing and training of the farmers;



--The distribution of state aid;

--The social and economic development of the farmers and organization of the farmers in cooperatives and groups;

--The improvement of farmers' income; and

--The development and launching of agroindustry.

### III) Resources Put to Work

In order to achieve the various goals established for the Haouz Regional Agricultural Development Office, the following resources have been used:

#### 1) Human Resources

The Haouz Office employs personnel responsible for studying, drafting and implementing its various work programs and its various activities, in which activities it uses a staff of nearly 1,000, including 62 higher cadres and 453 supervisory cadres.

#### 2) Material Resources

In order to achieve certain projects on behalf of the farmers and within the framework of agricultural development, the Office has acquired 48 tractors, 39 disk plows, 45 cover crops, 13 stub plows, 11 harrows, 19 ridgers, 15 sprayers and 5 harvester combines.

#### 3) Infrastructure

In order to facilitate contact with the various farmers and to provide them with its services conveniently, the office has supervised the installation of the necessary infrastructure. As a result, the following can be found within the area: 12 fertilizer sale outlets, 12 seed sale outlets, 10 veterinary infirmaries, 7 artificial insemination stations, 11 breeding stations, 5 animal dipping stations, 1 fodder processing center and 33 dairy collection centers.

#### 4) Communal Equipment

In this connection, the Haouz Office is contributing effectively to equipping the rural communes located in its zone of action.

For example, it has undertaken to carry out 63 drinking water network projects, 194 market installation projects, 6 electrification projects and 3 sewage projects, as well as completion of 2,329,320 labor days of type A national promotion, 100 percent financed by the Haouz Office (representing 17,000,542 dirhams).

## 5) Rural Institutions

To provide a better foundation for its various activities and to ensure continuing contact with the farmers, the Haouz Development Office has overseen the organization of farmers' cooperatives and associations. As a result, there are 72 agrarian reform cooperatives, involving 3,026 farmers; 60 cooperatives for the sharing of farm equipment, including 354 farmers; 30 dairy cooperatives, including 6,624 farmers; 2 livestock-breeding groups; 64 irrigation groups, including 11,922 farmers; and 1 supply cooperative, including 64 farmers.

## 6) Promotion of Farm Production

The Haouz Development Office does not limit itself to these various activities, but in order to further encourage the farmers has engaged in a major popularization and subsidies program for them.

For example, within the framework of the 1981-1985 plan, a budget allocation of 38,843,000 dirhams was included for the achievement of this program, distributed as follows:

### a) Crop Production

Popularization campaigns were undertaken, including:

- Trips and excursions for the farmers
- Study days and seminars
- Audiovisual aids
- Fairs and exhibitions
- Young farmers' farms
- Crop-raising experiments
- Women's activities
- SEMVA [Experimental Farm Development Station]
- Subsidies and allowances
- Bonuses and competitions
- Grain operations
- Fodder crop seed
- Improvement of oleaginous crop production

--Establishment of orchards

--Land development

--Heavy farm equipment

--Light farm equipment.

b) Livestock Production

--Purchase of cattle, purchase of sheep and goats, construction of stables, construction of sheepfolds, construction of poultry houses, competition and bonuses, equipment, apiaries, fodder storage facilities and subsidies for dairy groups.

IV) Development of Agricultural Water Resources for the Haouz Plain

With a view to the goals of developing and improving the land established by his majesty's government, i.e., the irrigation of a million hectares by the year 2000, the Haouz Regional Agricultural Development Office, like the other regional offices, has established as its goals:

--Meeting food needs through domestic production;

--Raising the farmers' standard of living;

--Creation of new jobs in the rural sector;

--Waging a battle against the rural exodus; and

--Liberating foreign exchange resources.

In order to achieve these various goals, the Haouz Office has undertaken the development of agricultural water resources in the Haouz Plain within three major areas, described below.

Tassaout Amont Area

A. Characteristics

1) As to geographic situation, it is located at the eastern end of the Haouz Plain, and is bounded by the Jbilet hills on the north, by the Atlas piedmont on the south, by the first foothills of the Atlas Mountains on the east, and by the central Haouz Plain on the west.

2) Environmental Characteristics

a) Climate

As to rainfall, there is an annual average of 250 mm, with a variation, from one year to another, of from 126 to 449 mm.

The average annual temperature is 19.8°C, with a maximum of 48° and a minimum of 3°.

The average annual evaporation is 2,300 mm.

b) Water Resources

The average annual flow in the Tassaout Amont Basin is 370 Mm<sup>3</sup>, with a volume of 260 Mm<sup>3</sup> regulated by the dams.

c) Estimated Population (1981)

Rural population--180,00, number of farmers--34,000, active farm population--72,000.

d) Farm Soil Conditions

Out of the 52,000 hectares included in studies, it was established that 12.3 percent is of good quality, 54.6 percent is of average quality, and 33.1 percent is of poor quality.

e) Breakdown of Total Surface Area

Out of a total measured area of 52,000 hectares, 27,000 hectares are irrigated by dams, 3,000 hectares are irrigated by water installations, and 22,000 are irrigated by traditional water canals.

f) Landowning Structure

Out of the 27,000 developed hectares, collective land accounts for 27 percent, privately owned 50 percent, domain land 20 percent, and public inalienable property [property devoted to religious purposes] 3 percent.

g) Farm Production

The 27,000 developed hectares in Tassaout Amont are utilized as follows: 7,122 hectares, or 25 percent, in grain; 2,606 hectares, or 9 percent, in industrial crops; 5,675 hectares, or 20 percent, in fodder crops; 3,916 hectares, or 14 percent, in truck garden crops; and 9,179 hectares, or 32 percent, in plantations.

h) Livestock Production

The cattle herd totals 50,342 head, of which 1,905 are purebred, 828 of mixed breeds, and 47,609 of domestic breeds. There are 216,961 head of sheep and 13,180 goats.

B. Farm Water Installations in Tassaout Amont

The development of this area began in 1968.

a) Equipment

- 1) The Moulay Youssef Dam was begun in 1968 and finished in 1970. It has a capacity of 200 Mm<sup>3</sup>, or a regulated flow of 260 Mm<sup>3</sup>.
- 2) The Timinoutine Compensation Dam has a capacity of 3 Mm<sup>3</sup>.
- 3) The Agadir Bouachiba intake and gallery extend for 4 kilometers.
- 4) There are 87 kilometers of canals and main collectors.
- 5) The irrigation and drainage network totals 1,700 kilometers.
- 6) Development of soil studies and reallocation.
- 7) Small and average water installations.
- 8) Road networks.
- 9) Communal and miscellaneous equipment.

The development of this area required an expenditure of 425 million dirhams.

#### b) Developed Zones

Totaling an area of 30,000 hectares, the developed zones in Tassaout Amont include four sectors: Sahrij, Attaoula-Freita, Bouida-Od, Said, Tamelelt and the Central Haouz area.

#### A. Description

1) Geographically, the area is located in the Haouz Plain, and is bounded on the north by the Tensift, on the south by the Haut Atlas piedmont, on the east by the Tassaout Amont area, and on the west by the west bank of the N'Fis.

#### 2) Environmental Characteristics

##### a) Climate

As to precipitation, the rainfall averages 250 mm, with a maximum of 526 mm in 1921-22 and a minimum of 107 in 1980-81.

The average temperature is 19.8°C, with a maximum of 45° and a minimum of 3°.

##### b) Water Resources

The annual average flow in the Tensift Basin is 724 Mm<sup>3</sup>, with a regulated flow in the Rocade Canal (under construction) of 300 Mm<sup>3</sup>. [as printed]

##### c) Estimated 1981 Population

The estimated rural population is 320,000 inhabitants, with a density of 100 per square kilometer, with 55,000 farmers and an active farm population of 128,000.

d) Farm Soil Conditions

Out of the 102,100 hectares covered by soil studies, it was established that 60 percent of the soil was of good quality, 16 percent of average quality, and 24 percent of poor quality.

e) Land Use Structure

Out of a total area of 320,000 hectares, 276,180 hectares, or 68 percent, are useful farm land; 191,527 hectares, or 69 percent, are under traditional irrigation; 2,680 hectares, or 1 percent, have irrigation equipment (pumping station); and there is an uncultivated area of 81,979 hectares, or 30 percent, including a surface to be developed (PTI [first irrigation phase]) of 57,500 hectares, or 20 percent.

This constitutes the irrigation area, and it is to be followed by a second area of 60,000 hectares.

f) Landowning Structure

Domain land totaled 44,605 hectares, or 14 percent; public inalienable property [property devoted to religious purposes] 4,563 hectares, or 1.5 percent; grazing land 44,017 hectares, or 13.5 percent; allocated crops 11,015 hectares, or 3.5 percent; and privately owned and similar land areas 215,800 hectares, or 67.5 percent. The total comes to 320,000 hectares.

g) Farm Production

The areas planted to grain crops include 219,790 hectares, or 75 percent, in full field cultivation; 42,986 hectares, or 14.5 percent, in plantations; 10,877 hectares, or 3.5 percent lying fallow; 2,533 hectares, or 1 percent, under the DRS [Soil Reclamation Directorate]; and 43,814 hectares not under cultivation or otherwise disposed.

h) Livestock Production

The cattle herd comes to a total of 62,168 head, including 33,415 dairy cows distributed as follows: 5,855 purebred, 10,279 of mixed breeds and 17,281 of domestic breeds. There are 204,375 head of sheep and 25,656 goats.

3) Development of Production in the Central Haouz Region (First Phase Involving 57,500 Hectares)

Since irrigation is scheduled to begin at the end of 1986, after the completion of the Ait Chouarit Dam project, the farm situation in this area will see a clear development as described below with regard to the main prospects.

Among the project goals, we might mention in particular the following:

--Increase of the farmer's income following the improvement in cultivation techniques, the use of production factors (fertilizers, selected seed, plant health products) and the rational use of irrigation water, with the mastery of the flow of these waters;

--The development of production thanks to agroindustry and the productivity of investments, as well as conclusive development of crop and livestock production following the equipment effort;

--Where grains are concerned, production will increase from 358,00 to 537,000 quintals, and generally speaking, crops will see an estimated increase of 50 percent, despite the decrease in the area used (from 42,000 to 14,000 hectares);

--Where fodder crops are concerned, production will develop from 180,000 to 730,000 tons per year, while that of truck garden crops will increase from 25,200 to 87,500 tons (in other words, more than tripling);

--The production of citrus crops will almost double (increasing from 36,000 to 60,000 tons);

--Olive production will develop from 50,000 to 148,000 tons (i.e., tripling); and

--Where the effect of the project on animal products is concerned, their volume will quadruple (from 19,000 to 84,000 tons for milk, and from 1,305 to 5,070 tons for meat).

#### B. Central Haouz Development Project

Since 1975, the Haouz Office has been engaged in a vast long-term program with a view to the hydroagricultural development of Central Haouz and Tassaout Aval (Downstream Tassaout) through the drafting of a master plan.

As a result, when this program has been completed, the equipped area in the sphere of action of the Office will reach about 190,000 hectares.

On the basis of the master plan, the principle of establishing a first irrigation phase covering 57,500 hectares located in Central Haouz was established.

The development of the PTI is based on:

--The transfer of a volume of 30 Mm<sup>3</sup> from the Lakhdar Wadi, including 260 Mm<sup>3</sup> for irrigation and 40 Mm for drinking water for Marrakesh;

--Plans for the development of the Ait Chouarit and Sidi Driss Dams, assigned priority with a view to regulating the tributaries of the Tensift;

--The Rocade Canal (118 kilometers), which is under construction, will pass through the regulated waters of the Lakhdar Wadi toward the irrigation area; and

--The raising of the height of the Lalla Takerkoust Dam, which has already been done, is also a part of the PTI project and will increase the regularized volume of the N'Fis Wadi to 85 Mm .



With the completion of the second phase and the third irrigation phase, the developed area in Central Haouz will be increased to 17,500 hectares.

The commissioning of the first sector is scheduled for the end of 1986, and that of the other sectors will occur at the rate of 7,000 hectares per year.

As of the present, the Haouz Regional Agricultural Development Office has begun the equipping of the PTI in the Central Haouz, and has also begun the drafting of the pumping schedule for the hydroagricultural development and commissioning of the first phase of the PTI, covering a net area of 11,755 hectares.

This project pertains to the following development sectors:

--R 1 Rdat (Ras El Ain-Sidi Rahal-Ait Ourir)

--Z 1 Zat (Ras El Ain-Ait Ourir)

--N 1-2 N'Fis (Saada and Oudaya).

The usefulness and the profitability of this project have enabled the Haouz Office to obtain the loans necessary for its financing from certain Arab financial institutions, led by the Arab Economic and Social Development Fund (FADES).

The financing of 100 percent of the foreign exchange portion will be guaranteed as follows:

- a) Hydroagricultural equipping of the first phase of the PTI and the G Canal: 144,900,000 dirhams from the FADES, 84 million dirhams from the Kuwaiti Fund, and 95 million from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (FAD).
- b) Ait Chouarit Dam: 170,100,000 dirhams from the FADES, 126 million dirhams from the Kuwaiti Fund, and 168 million dirhams from the Abou Doubai Fund.
- c) Rocade Canal (distribution section: 72 kilometers): 201,130,000 dirhams from the Saudi Fund.

#### Tassaout Aval Area

The Tassaout Aval area, which is not currently within the sphere of action of the ORMVAH, but rather that of the El Kelaa Provincial Agricultural Office, is the subject of a feasibility study with a view to the development and equipping of it.

Before giving a brief description of this area, it would be well to recall that the development of the Central Haouz area is closely linked with that of Tassaout Aval. In this connection, let us note that a large part of the waters of the Lakhdar Wadi and the Tassaout Wadi which are at present irrigating Tassaout Aval will be regulated in the future by the Ait Chouarit Dam, so as to



irrigate Central Haouz, with compensation for Tassaout Aval provided by the Ben Loidane Dam (Tadla), guaranteeing the water to which this area is entitled.

#### A. Description

1) Geographically, it is situated in the province of El Kelaa, beginning with Sraghna, in the eastern part of the Bahira, about 100 kilometers to the north-east of Marrakesh, along both banks of the Tassaout Wadi.

The area is bounded by the Oum Rbia Wadi on the north, the Jbilet hill chain on the south, the Msref Tsaur, on the Tadla side, and the Tmallou Wadi, on the Azilal side, to the east, and by the Rehamna administrative boundary on the west.

2) As to the natural environment, the climate is of the semiarid to arid type, with an average temperature of more than 20.3°.

The average rainfall is 250 mm, with a minimum of 107 mm recorded in 1980-1981.

The rural population for 1980 was estimated at 110,252 inhabitants, with a density of 60 persons per square kilometer.

The soil in the area has been classified in terms of economic suitability as follows: in the water network zone, 75 percent of the soil is suitable for irrigated crop cultivation, while in the uncultivated land zone, one-third of the soil is suitable for grain, the remaining two-thirds being suitable for pastureland.

#### 3) Land Ownership Structure

--Collective land--89.5 percent

--Privately-owned land--7.4 percent

--Allocated plots (agrarian reform)--1.9 percent.

#### 4) Farm Area Structure

--Total area--225,000 hectares, including:

--Water network area--90,550 hectares, or 36 percent;

--Uncultivated area--144,450 hectares, or 64 percent; and

--Useful farm area (SAU)--192,500 hectares, or 86 percent, including

--Water network area--73,600 hectares, or 38 percent;

--Uncultivated area--118,900 hectares, or 62 percent.

## 5) Farm Production

The areas planted to crops are distributed as follows (the \* represents 650 hectares in terraces).

	Total Area in Hectares	Irrigated Area	Nonirrigated Area
Olive groves	12,000	12,000	--
Grains	144,960	39,800	95,160
Fodder crops	3,400	3,000	400
Miscellaneous crops	1,440	240	1,200
Truck garden crops	1,150	500	(*)
Total		55,540	96,360 [as printed]

Animal Production (\* number of head)

--Cattle--21,175  
 --Sheep--236,733  
 --Goats--18,809  
 --Horses, mules, etc.--17,760.

## 6) Assessment of Water Resources Needed to Supply the Tassaout Aval Area

The assessment of water resources included in the master plan for the development of the Tassaout Aval area reveals that the annual requirement is 208 mm<sup>3</sup> while the resources which will be available include the following:

--Ait Adel Dam on the Tassaout--10 mm<sup>3</sup>  
 --Ait Chouarit Dam--20 mm<sup>3</sup>  
 --Bin El Ouidane Dam--150 mm<sup>3</sup> (G Canal)  
 --Return to Tassaout Amont Wadi--18 mm<sup>3</sup>  
 --Return to Tassaout Aval Wadi--10 mm<sup>3</sup>

This makes a total of 208 mm<sup>3</sup>.

The supplementary volume available includes:

--Bin El Ouidane--19 mm<sup>3</sup>  
 --Underground water--5 to 15 mm<sup>3</sup>  
 --Underground water already tapped--23 mm<sup>3</sup>.

This makes a total of 255 to 265  $\text{mm}^3$ , and on the basis of network efficiency of about 0.8, a volume of about 204 to 213  $\text{mm}^3$  will be available for Tassaout Aval.

In the light of these clear figures and a simple analysis of the surface area currently under irrigation (55,540 hectares) and the future water supply available (204 to 213  $\text{mm}^3$ ), and without mentioning other limitations, it can be stated that with the supply currently predictable, the development of this area will be very limited.

It is thus desirable if not essential to improve the water supply of this area with a view to the better development of the planned hydroagricultural equipment project, and to allow rational development.

#### B. Tassaout Aval Development Project

The development of Tassaout Aval is based on:

--Reestablishment of the water rights, through the use of the waters of the Laabid Wadi carried by the G Canal from the Tadla area, and the underground water resources.

--The G Canal (34 kilometers from deadhead) on which work will begin early in 1985. The study for the regulation of the G Canal is under way.

--The water return to the wadi, as well as the overflow from the Sidi Driss Dam, will be mobilized by means of an intake dam opposite the Jbilets.

--The water from the Ait Chouarit (20  $\text{mm}^3$ ) and Ait Adel (10  $\text{mm}^3$ ) Dams will be carried to the edge of the area by canal.

The feasibility study being made of the Tassaout Aval area should lead, by the end of 1983, to the drafting of a file to be submitted in support of the applications for financing made to foreign bodies.

#### A. Current Situation

The canning industry in Morocco is currently processing more than 350,000 tons of farm products. It includes almost 100 units and provides more than 6 million labor days of work annually to permanent and seasonal employees.

This industry can be subdivided into four basic sectors:

--Seasonings--44 percent

--Canned vegetables--15 percent

--Canned fruits and juices--41 percent.

Oriented mainly toward the foreign market, this industry exports an average of 90,000 to 100,000 tons, representing an estimated total value of more than 400 million dirhams.

Agroindustry in the Marrakesh region plays a leading role on two levels, both regional and national, from both the economic and social points of view.

On the social level, the agroindustrial units in the region utilize considerable manpower in the activities preceding and following their own, thus contributing to reducing unemployment. They annually provide 17,000 to 25,000 part-time jobs (for women, above all) and 2,500 to 3,000 permanent jobs.

In addition, thanks to these units, the province of Marrakesh ranks first in the volume and the value of fruits and vegetables exported by the OCE [Marketing and Export Office] (36 percent and 47 percent, respectively, in 1980).

Our region's contribution varied from 34,000 to 51,000 tons between 1978 and 1980, representing a value of between 130 and 170 million dirhams.

The existing infrastructure includes 46 units:

- 25 canneries
- 11 oil plants
- 5 flour mills
- 1 dairy
- 1 cold storage facility
- 2 citrus fruit processing stations
- 1 vegetable horsehair processing unit.

The production of these units is relatively substantial.

(1982 Estimates)

	Production in tons	Percentage	Value in Thou. of Dirhams	Percentage
Olive oil	10,000	6	110,000	22.5
Canned goods (fruits, vegetables)	40,000	X 26	190,000	39
Milk	32,000	21	80,000	16.5
Flour	72,000	47	108,000	22
Total	154,000	100	488,000	100

In addition, the production of Marrakesh accounts, both in terms of volume and value, for more than 35 percent of the OCE exports of canned fruits and vegetables.

## B. Future Prospects

By the year 2000, the Haouz Plain will have a developed area of 190,000 hectares (Central Haouz, Tassaout Amont and Tassaout Aval), which will make it possible to achieve production as follows:

- Grain--120,000 tons
- Leguminous crops--17,000 tons
- Sugar beets--350,000 tons
- Seasonal truck garden crops--175,000 tons
- Olives--100,000 tons
- Apricots--100,000 tons
- Milk--90,000 tons
- Meat--9,000 tons.

The development of this production is necessary. Therefore, on the basis of the potential and options for regional development, and in accordance and harmony with the overall development plans for the country, it is desirable to create new industrial units as follows:

- 1 sugar refinery with a capacity of 4,000 tons per day
- 1 animal feed unit with a capacity of 10,000 tons per year
- 1 vegetable drying unit with a capacity of 30,000 tons per year
- 1 flour mill with a capacity of 9,000 tons per month
- 1 vervain processing unit with a capacity of 2,000 tons per year
- Oil canning plants
- 1 industrial slaughterhouse with a capacity of 245,000 tons per year
- 1 dairy-cheese plant with a capacity of 36,000 tons per year.

The achievement of these agroindustrial projects will certainly have a favorable socioeconomic impact, and will make it possible to:

- Raise the value of farm products
- Raise the standard of living of the farmers
- Satisfy consumer needs

--Create new jobs, and

--Bring in foreign exchange income.

The necessary investments should be the focus of initiative on the part of the state as well as the private sector. This agroindustrial sector has a very promising future. In order the better to safeguard it, the efforts pursued to date by the state should be supported by close collaboration on the part of the farmers and processors, thus making it possible to ensure efficient organization of the various partners with a view to greater harmony in the sector.

#### VI) Some Special Haouz Regional Agricultural Development Office Projects

##### A. "Operation 5,500" Rural Housing Project

Within the framework of the policy designed to improve the standard of living of the farmers in the region, the Haouz Office has, in collaboration with the local authorities and the housing and rural development office, undertaken a vast project in the rural housing sector within the Tassaout Amont development area (rural structure plan), which will involve 40 centers with three levels (primary, secondary and tertiary).

"Operation 5,500" was launched in 1979 as a preproject. It involves the development and equipping of 14 integrated rural sectors in the reallocation sector of the Tassaout Amont area, including 5,500 low-cost housing units.

This operation has several objectives:

--The 14 centers should provide the advantages of group housing and facilitate the establishment of various social installations.

--They should also provide the service advantages which make family and collective life more convenient.

--The operations planned should contribute to slowing the rural exodus and to promoting integrated development on the local and regional levels.

##### B. Young Farmers' Farm Schools (FEJA)

In order to provide upcoming personnel for the farm sector and better to integrate the bases of technical progress in this sector, the Haouz Office turned its attention to the training of young people in the rural sector and the establishment within the Tassaout Amont area of the Young Farmers' Farm Schools, wherein farm education with a firm basis in practical work is provided.

Returning to the family farm operation or those of other farmers after their training period, these young people in the rural area undoubtedly constitute the best means of popularizing new farm techniques.

For this reason, four FEJA have been established and have provided 800 young farmers with training since 1968.

### C. Establishment of an Experimental Farm Development Station

The Haouz Office has in recent years undertaken to establish an experimental farm development station in which agronomic and water resources tests connected with the Central Haouz development project can be carried out.

According to the recommendations of the master plan and the feasibility study, one must in fact remember that the system adopted for the irrigation of the first phase is in the main a drenching system. Since this technique has not previously been used under conditions comparable to those in Haouz (semiarid climate, an old tradition of irrigation by gravity, etc.), the Haouz Office deemed it useful and in fact essential to create an experimental farm development station at Had Ras El Ain, in the very heart of the Central Haouz area.

This station will have the following tasks:

- 1) To test the validity of the agrotechnical proposal adopted under average general conditions before it is implemented.
- 2) To confirm the options adopted in terms of the local context.
- 3) To ensure the prior popularization of new techniques among the farmers and future development agents.

### D. Launching Agroindustry Again

The improvement in the income derived from agriculture and the profitability of the investments made in the area will depend essentially on the establishment of processing industries.

For this reason, the Haouz Regional Agricultural Development Office has deemed it necessary to integrate farm production with the structure in which it is subsequently processed.

In order to strengthen the agroindustrial sector in the area further, the Office has participated actively in the establishment of the following units:

- The Marrakesh Cold Storage Facility Management Company (SOGEFRIM), and
- The Marrakesh Citrus Fruit Processing and Packing Station (SOCOCEMA).

It also plans to participate in establishing the Tamelelt Olive Pressing Canning Unit, which has become essential in order to increase the value of a product which is strategic for the nation.

5157

CSO: 4519/143



EDITORIAL URGES GOVERNMENT TO END REPRESSION, OPEN DIALOGUE

Tunis AL-RA'Y in Arabic 28 Jan 83 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "No to Repression"]

[Text] Three years ago, on 26 January 1981, we appealed to the head of the state to form a council to reconcile the national tendencies and to utilize the capabilities to confront the domestic and external challenges.

That was on the second anniversary of the January 1978 incidents and hours before the Gafsa incidents.

It is our right and our duty to evaluate our country's situation, which belongs to all of us, and to wonder whether we have created the objective conditions to avert tremors and to overcome crises and whether the elements of impregnability and stability are stronger today than they were in the past.

This question motivates us to raise three other questions stemming from it:

First, is the country's economy stronger today than it was 3 years ago?

We realize that the issue of development is a difficult and complex issue and that the present government, like the preceding governments, has exerted undeniable efforts in an endeavor to control matters. But we believe that it has not been successful in many of its options, considering that it has failed to change [certain] options and methods of organization and management that should have been abandoned.

The government has not embarked on structural reforms certain to mobilize the productive capabilities in order to win the development battle. There is no doubt that its failure to stir the enthusiasm of the producing masses is the fundamental reason for the country's economy continuing to be brittle as it is and for this economy being very strongly influenced by external crises and ordinary fluctuations.

Second, are the state establishments stronger today than they were yesterday?

There is no need to dwell on the answer to this question and it suffices to remind of the circumstances under which the Chamber of Deputies was elected--circumstances which have not enhanced the executive authority's credibility or respect or the legislative authority's status or influence.

Insofar as the judiciary authority is concerned, it is enough to point out the trials that have been going on for 2 years, whether the trials of the Islamic Tendency Movement, of the underground organizations or of the free press.

Third, is the people's unity stronger today?

We believe that the answer to this question requires a careful scientific study. It is regrettable that the country does not have a free institute for opinion polling. However, we are afraid that the economic policy followed in the 1970's and in the past 3 years has deepened the class feelings. On the other hand, the division experienced by the country within both the opposition forces and within the regime itself is no secret.

What is more serious is that the country's hopes were revived when Mr Mzali's government was formed. The first step taken by this government was successful. But matters soon reverted to their previous condition. The arrests, trials and inhuman actions to which the opposition is exposed at present--arrests, trials and actions which the officials cannot deny--do not evoke great reassurance over the future.

However, we assert here that we refuse to be pessimists. In making this assertion, we rely on objective factors of which the most important are the following:

First, what brings this people's sons closer to each other is more important than what divides them. Despite the disagreement over certain issues, such as the issue of liberties and the issue of socialism, the overwhelming majority of the citizens, regardless of their political affiliations, agree on fundamental issues, such as clinging to political action within the framework of the constitutional legitimacy, their disavowal of violence and their refusal to collude with outsiders.

Second, the highest authority in the country which is in charge of the government policy has issued the general directive approving political multiplicity, calling for the adoption of dialogue, banning the means of torture and so forth. It is now up to the government to find the means and plans capable of crystallizing this directive.

Third, when the government enacted this directive on the issue of union leadership, success was its ally. The government has released the detainees and has used dialogue with them in an endeavor to settle the pending issues. Had the unionist leadership remained under detention and had its estrangement continued, the current social situation would have been much more dangerous than it is.

In view of these three factors, it is essential that:

An immediate stop be put to the wave of arrests, that those detained and those convicted for their ideas be released and that a general amnesty be declared.

That a national dialogue be initiated among the various national tendencies in order to lay down foundations on which to organize the country's political life.

This, in our opinion, is the path to safety.

8494

CSO: 4504/191

## RESULTS OF CONSUMER POLL REVEALED

Tunis AL-RA'Y in Arabic 28 Jan 83 p 7

[Article: "This Is the Tunisian Consumer"]

[Text] The results of the opinion poll presented by AL-RA'Y to its readers in edition No 197 have been useful and enlightening. Even though some of the answers were expected, others have been a sudden surprise, including the surprise reassuring us that the Tunisian citizen has not entered the consumption era yet, considering that only 8 percent [of those polled] consider shopping a pleasure. Another surprise is that the majority of the participants (64 percent) have asserted that they do not hoard goods for fear of a crisis.

Generally, the majority of the consuming citizens believe that it is difficult to cheat them (56 percent), they shop around before they buy (53 percent) and they succumb to the psychological factor in most cases (79 percent). The Tunisian does not observe health instructions (52 percent), does not handle his family budget (12 percent) or he has tried to do so and then stopped doing it (47 percent), he checks his bills (72 percent) but does not set a limit to his spending in most cases (79 percent).

But this consumption pattern which may not please some people conceals behind it a large degree of maturity of which we are proud. The Tunisian most often compares the prices offered by several shops (86 percent), does not consider the more expensive brand the better one (14 percent), favors by a significant majority the establishment of consumer cooperatives (78 percent) and believes that he can boycott a certain commodity as long as it is not essential (86 percent). He is fully aware that the fight against inflation cannot produce results without a fundamental reform of the channels of distribution (86 percent).

Even though Tunisia did not know in the past the consumer rights protection associations, 80 percent of the participants in the poll have expressed their willingness to join such associations. One participant has added in red ink: As long as they remain independent of the government.

1. Do you consider shopping: A pleasure in itself (8 percent); a burden, nothing else (48 percent); a heavy burden (44 percent)?"

2. Do you think that it is difficult to cheat you?  
Yes (20 percent). No (56 percent). Undecided (24 percent).
3. What is the first thing to attract your attention in a commodity?  
Quality (10 percent). Price (22 percent). Quality and price (68 percent).
4. Do you haggle if the price is not fixed?  
Yes, always (53 percent). Yes, at times (42 percent). Never (5 percent).
5. Do you compare the prices of several shops?  
Yes, always (44 percent). Yes, at times (42 percent). No (14 percent).
6. Does the psychological factor affect you?  
Yes, always (39 percent). Yes, at times (40 percent). No (21 percent).
7. Do you think that the more expensive brand is the better?  
Yes, always (14 percent). Yes, at times (74 percent). To the contrary (12 percent).
8. Do you examine the quality before buying?  
Yes, always (49 percent). At times (34 percent). Yes, but I seek the help of others (14 percent). Never (3 percent).
9. If you return home and find that the commodity you have bought is less than you had thought:  
Do you try to return it (46 percent)? Do you remain silent and keep it (54 percent)?
10. Do you hoard some goods?  
At times (12 percent). Always (24 percent). Never (64 percent).
11. Do you observe health instructions?  
Always (26 percent). At times (52 percent). Never (22 percent).
12. Do you set for yourself a limit beyond which you do not spend when you go shopping?  
Yes, always (41 percent). Yes, at times (35 percent). Not at all (24 percent).
13. Do you check your bills?  
Yes, always (72 percent). Yes, at times (6 percent). I pay without checking (22 percent).
14. Do you balance your family budget every month?  
Always (30 percent). At times (11 percent). Tried and then gave up (47 percent). Never tried (12 percent).
15. Do you think that the consumer can alleviate the inflationary crisis if he shoulders his responsibility?  
Yes, seriously (44 percent). Yes, in a limited way (42 percent). Not at all (14 percent).

16. Would you join a consumer association if one were established?  
Yes (80 percent). No (4 percent). Undecided (16 percent).
17. Do you prefer to buy from major stores (22 percent); small stores (16 percent); distribution outlets (24 percent)?
18. Do you encourage the presence of consumer cooperatives?  
Yes (78 percent). No (10 percent). Undecided (12 percent).
19. Do you think you can boycott a commodity if it becomes necessary to do so?  
Yes (86 percent). No (8 percent). Undecided (6 percent).
20. In your opinion, can inflation be controlled without a fundamental reform of the channels of distribution?  
Yes (7 percent). No (89 percent). Undecided (4 percent).

8494

CSO: 4504/191

COMMUNIQUE REPORTS OPERATIONS AGAINST MOROCCANS

LD051230 Algiers APS in English 1058 GMT 5 Mar 83

[All place and name spellings as received]

[Text] Haouza (liberated territories) 05/3/83 (APS)--Combatants of the Sahraui People's Liberation Army harry with heavy armaments since last Sunday the Moroccan advanced positions round occupied town of Smara, the Sahraui minister of information announced.

"During the same historical day," the communique added, "combatant units of our army shelled garrisons of the Moroccan occupation forces in Laaridha and Ribeib Billao during three hours."

Similar operations took place in Taharkanit, on 21 and 26 February, and in Qouinet El Halfa and Touizghi, on the Moroccan territory 24 February, the communique went on pointing out important human and material losses within ranks of Moroccan troops.

The communique underlined that these operations coincide with the commemoration of the 7th Anniversary of the Proclamation of the Sahraui Arab Democratic Republic.

CSO: 4500/125



BAHRAINI INFORMATION MINISTER ANSWERS QUESTIONS

GF051414 Manama AL-ADWA' in Arabic 5 Mar 83 p 5

[Bahraini Information Minister Tariq 'Abd al-Rahman al-Mu'ayyad answers questions sent in by readers]

[Excerpt] A. Mahdi says in his letter: Several Arab information and cultural centers have opened in Western Europe and America, but regrettably these centers only express the views of various states with all their Arab political differences. If the Arab League has failed, due to political or financial reasons, in uniting these centers to confront the anti-Arab propaganda, why does not the GCC adopt such an important information and cultural task?

Answer: I thank AL-ADWA'f first for proposing discussion in this manner and secondly because this topic is not understood by many people. The people only know about the internal press but very few of them realize the nature of the activities of the press abroad. Thus, it is the role of the press to explain this goal in a manner that will benefit the reader. This leads me to praise the AL-ADWA' idea of allowing the public to question ministers and senior officials in this manner in order to gain information from them.

As you have said, there is a difference in views concerning the method of informing the outside world. However, this difference does not exist among the GCC states because the foreign policies of these countries have been united even before the establishment of the GCC. Hence, their information policy to the outside world is also united, and even if this takes place through several bodies, it is still united. For example, Saudi Arabia has a radio that is beamed to the outside and reaches Europe and America and so do Kuwait and the UAE. What is being proposed is not to have a single radio or a single body but to make all these bodies speak as one. This now, praise be to God, exists in the Gulf countries.

However, regrettably the political differences which we feel exist in the Arab nation are the ones that hinder the process of coordination among the Arab states in the information field. The Arab League does its best through the Arab Information Bureau and Bahrain is honored to be the chairman of the Arab Information Committee in the League. However, the information bodies of each country are sometimes preoccupied not only in not highlighting the real image of the Arab question but also in the arguments between them through the information bodies that are beamed to the outside. There are resources and energies that are being wasted in the Arab world because these bodies concentrate on

differences among the Arab states and instead of seeking to at least ignore these differences, they try to deepen them.

I personally affirm that the policy of the Gulf states is to work through the Arab League in the field of foreign information with regard to the Arab question which is a primary issue that concerns all these countries. For this reason we proposed to the Council of Arab Information Ministers last year that WAKH take the initiative of transmitting the news of the Arab League and the Arab news that interest the League because WAKH has many gates leading to the outside world and it opened lines via satellite to Europe, America and the Far East. The Arab information ministers agreed and I believe this step has two advantages: First is serving the Arab nation through the Arab League, and second is that the confidence entrusted in us by the Arab information ministers indicate that there are other prospects for reaching agreements with the Arab countries. I personally believe that the Gulf region can play a greater and more effective role in Arab information policy because this region is far from any press wrangle, and in most cases they do not even reply to those who confront them or cast doubts about their march.

I am optimistic that this step will serve the Arab question and will serve the Gulf press so that it can play a primary role in serving this question through the Arab League.

AL-ADWA': During Bahrain's chairmanship of the Arab Information Committee, are there any serious obstacles that might affect the optimism which you have expressed?

Answer: In fact, the biggest problem that faces this committee is the disintegration the Arab nation is undergoing, which made it impossible for the Arab information ministers to meet for a long time and hindered large-scale meetings of information ministries under their ministers. As you know, political circumstances have led to this. However, I hope that during the next 2 months the Arab information ministers meeting will be set; and the current Arab situation--particularly after the summit conference--makes me even more optimistic about more joint Arab action.

Yusuf Hasan Yusuf says in his letter: Our Arab region, including the Gulf, is facing unlimited political and economic challenges. Nevertheless, our Arab media remains as it has always been--full of differences and without coordination and lacking the confidence of the Arab citizen. What is the reason for this situation and how can we come out of it?

Answer: I frankly say that the media is the first line of defense. That is why I affirm that any party having ambitions for the Gulf's wealth will try to infiltrate through the information media. Some people cast doubts on the Arab character of this region and some cast doubts on its affiliation to Islam and claim that they are more knowledgeable about this faith than us; and others cast doubts on the progress the region is undergoing.

We are aware that the citizen knows what is happening. Therefore, we have great confidence that there is strong immunity to combat the information media

infiltration. Nevertheless, the greatest challenge facing this region is whether the capable media organs rigidly, strongly and unhesitatingly resist what is happening. That is why information media must be aware of the plots in order to quickly implement the strategy of self-defense. This can be achieved through an honest explanation of the gains the region has accomplished.

Of course the current political and economic challenges must be clearly explained and information media organs should be honest with the people in doing so. I personally believe that local press has a very great role to play at this stage. Believe me, we are trying with all our might to make the local press respectable by appreciating the role of the young and the old to enable it to play its primary role in serving society. The press should be a two-sided mirror, reflecting the officials' plans so that people can know what is going on and reflecting the citizens' interests, concerns, primary goals and aspirations.

An example of this is that when we talk about the GCC, we want, through the press, to know the people's priorities in cooperative efforts. This is why a quiet dialogue should be conducted, because there is no reason for shutting ourselves up and closing doors in the face of local information media.

Nevertheless, I am optimistic because the local press in Bahrain responds to the issues which concern the country. Some people say the press has not grown and will not become international and this is true. However, no one can claim that Bahrain's press is not a local press because it does reflect the people's primary concerns and this is a gain which we must be proud of. We cannot deceive ourselves by saying that this is an international press and forget that the role of the press is to first serve the Bahraini and Gulf citizen.

CSO: 4400/230

AMMAN DAILY ON U.S. AID TO ISRAEL

JN021016 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 2 Mar 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline, "Punishment or Reward," SAWT AL-SHA'B says: The U.S. Congress is currently discussing U.S. Government proposals to increase military aid to Israel next year in light of the Israeli campaign to exploit Syria's receipt of new Soviet missiles to compensate those destroyed during the Lebanese war. The proposed U.S. aid to Israel next year, will total \$785 million in economic aid and \$1.7 billion credit for armament. As U.S. Assistant State Secretary Veliotes has clarified, this program is the largest ever foreign aid program between the United States and another country.

Despite this huge aid, pro-Israel congressmen believe that the military aid allocations for Israel, as proposed, have been reduced by 10 percent. Congress members interpret this reduction as an attempt to pressure and punish Israel for its stand on Lebanon.

In answer to inquiries by congress members Veliotes asked: Do you believe gentlemen, that proposed aid which reaches \$2.5 billion constitutes punishment to Israel? SAWT AL-SHA'B adds: We believed that Israeli insistence on following a line contrary to the declared U.S. position in the Middle East would greatly affect U.S. aid to Israel this year, but Congress believes that \$2.5 billion constitutes a deliberate punishment to Israel.

What is surprising is that the Congress members who adopted this position are the same ones who, a few days ago rejected a proposal to provide Jordan with its military needs, claiming that they refuse to buy peace with arms. This reversed and biased logic, which is adopted by influential circles in the Congress and with direct effect on U.S. decision, has always been behind foiling peace opportunities one after another.

President Reagan has presented his peace plan and announced that the American nation supports this plan, because it represented the broadest official, public and academic opinion. However, the trends of absolute commitment to Israel and Congress' concern to reward the Israeli aggression whatever its effects and however contrary it is to Washington's declared positions, makes the U.S. peace plans incomprehensible in this part of the world.

SAWT AL-SHA'B concludes: The last 15 years have witnessed many international initiatives and decisions, but all were aborted because of Israel's intransigence and rejection. The only thing which has continued is the unconditional U.S. commitment to guarantee Israeli superiority over all the countries of the region. This makes us wonder: Has anything changed in the U.S. policies up to now?

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AMMAN 'AL-DUSTUR' INTERVIEWS WEST BANK MAYORS

JN051004 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 Mar 83 pp 1, 21

['Abdallah al-Faris dispatch]

[Excerpts] Musa Mahmud Musa, mayor of Silwad; Ahmad Lutfi 'Uthman, mayor of Baytuniya; and 'Abdallah Muhammad 'Abd al-Jabir, deputy mayor of Silwad, arrived in Amman from the West Bank yesterday evening. They mayors and the citizens of the two towns were prevented from leaving their towns by the Israeli occupation authorities. Their expatriate sons were also prevented from visiting their families from May 1982 to February 1983.

Mayor of Baytuniya Ahmad Lutfi 'Uthman said that the funds allocated by the Baghdad summit conference to support the steadfastness of the occupied land are not reaching our municipality because the Israeli occupation authorities are confiscating these funds and using them for [their] own development fund. He said that the authorities will only allow them 1,000 Jordanian dinars and the remainder is put in the aforementioned fund which Israel uses for its own economic use.

'Uthman said: We in the West Bank support the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue and call for complete unity between the two people, a holy unity which has existed for a long time. We the Palestinians call for complete unity. He said: We are satisfied with the Palestine National Council [PNC] resolutions and we support Yasir 'Arafat's political moves in service of the Palestinian cause.

In a statement to al-Dustur, Musa Mahmud Musa, the mayor of Silwad, said that the Israeli military rule controls and dominates the fate of the kinfolk and all walks of life in the West Bank.

He said: We support the PLO and agree with its decisions. He said that the PNC resolutions were commensurate with the challenges facing the Palestinian issue. He said: We support Jordanian-Palestinian rapproachment between His Majesty King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat which will benefit the Palestinian and Jordanian people.

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AMMAN DAILY RAPS ISRAELI RIVER 'ENCROACHMENT'

JN020905 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 2 Mar 83 p 1

['Awni 'Abdallah dispatch]

[Text] The Israeli occupation authorities have taken another move in their policy of continuous violation of international norms.

Israeli radio reported yesterday that the Israeli water directorate has prepared a program to pump 70 million cubic meters of water from the Arab Yarmuk River into Lake Tiberias.

The radio added that the program provides for connecting the three water pumps of the Jordan Valley settlements to the Yarmuk River and to an aqueduct leading to Bet She'an. The program also provides for improving, repairing and strengthening the water pump in (tall al-Ghawr) to increase its annual pumping capacity to 25 million cubic meters.

The radio affirmed that this intensive and radical study carried out by the Jordan River water society was at the request of the Israeli water directorate in view of the noticeable annual decrease in Israeli water resources.

The radio also said that Israel's water needs are increasing year after year.

Informed sources have told SAWT AL-SHA'B that this Israeli move is an encroachment on Jordanian waters which have been assigned for storage in the al-Maqarin Dam Reservoir for use in the Jordan Valley.

These sources added that Israel has no right to take a move which is considered such a violation of international pacts and an encroachment on other people's rights.

Jordan intends to extend the East Ghor Canal to exploit the Yarmuk River winter overflow.

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'AL-FAJR' FEATISES PNC RESOLUTIONS

JN011135 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 23 Feb 83 p 1

[Editorial: "The National Council and the Historic Resolutions"]

[Text] The Palestine National Council [PNC] yesterday ended its 16th session in Algiers by issuing a statement containing the publicized side of the strategy of Palestinian action on the political and military levels for the coming stage. The PNC resolutions have largely reflected a feeling of responsibility toward the current stage through which the Palestinian people are passing. They have also emphasized and deeply entrenched the Palestinian national unity--a unity which was most conspicuous during the PNC deliberations.

Although the PNC members did not disclose to news media all the resolutions and recommendations adopted, it is certain that the PNC has managed to adopt fateful resolutions commensurate with the requirements of the current stage of the Palestinian cause on both the political and military levels and in a manner which can achieve the Palestinian people's aspirations for self-determination and establishment of their independent state on their national soil.

The deliberations, which continued for about 10 days, stressed all the Palestinian factions' awareness and due consideration of the historic responsibility they must assume in this stage. These deliberations have also foiled the plans of the grudge-bearers who wagered on striking at the Palestinian national unity and proved to the whole world that the Palestinians know their own good and their way to restore their rights as well as their ability to adopt their own decisions away from the trusteeship of anyone. This in itself is a great accomplishment for the Palestinian people.

The PNC resolutions, which rose above peripheral issues and dealt with basics and priorities, reaffirmed our people's determination to proceed toward achieving their national and Pan-Arab aims and aspirations. They also affirmed our people's rejection of all suspect proposals that are hostile to the Palestinian cause.

The Palestinian people have through their national council reaffirmed that their cause is the difficult factor in the Middle East crisis and the key to a just and lasting peace in the region. They also asserted that any attempt to

overlook the Palestian rights will never lead to peace and stability and that the world is now requested to stand by the side of the Palestinian people so that they can restore their legitimate and natural right to self-determination and establishment of their independent state on their national soil.

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PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

'ARAFAT ADVISER DENIES RIFT WITHIN FATAH

GF041326 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 3 Mar 83 p 17

[Interview with Dr Nabil Sha'th, adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, PLO executive committee chairman, by AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM--date or place not given]

[Excerpt] [Question] We noticed that before and during the Palestine National Council [PNC] session some people were betting on the dismemberment of the PNC from the inside as a result of collision among various Palestinian factions. Now there are rumors saying there is a rift within Fatah on a series of plans and some resolutions. Is there any truth to this?

[Answer] The fact is that Fatah enjoys a higher level of democracy than that between it and the other factions. Fatah's cohesion and continuity have been and will remain unaffected by plurality because it is a national liberation movement and not an ideological party in the classical or modern sense; therefore, Fatah enjoys a high level of democracy in projecting opinions even within the council [the PNC]. Fatah holds daily meetings to discuss issues. There is no rift at all; there is no basis for a rift or need for collision. Those who saw Fatah hold meetings during the PNC session to discuss proposals imagined that it had not yet made its decision and that this was a very serious matter. In fact, this was an indication of the healthy atmosphere within Fatah.

Through its democracy, efficiency and capability it is leading the Palestinian revolution.

Assure your readers that Fatah is a good state, strong, coherent, and stable and will continue its historical role of leading the march.

US : 44-1 119

JERUSALEM DAILY ON ALGIERS PALESTINIAN MEETING

JN011212 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Feb 83 p 1

[Editorial: "The Palestinian Algiers Program"]

[Text] Now that the Palestinians have presented to the world their unified political program, which was approved by the highest Palestinian legislative authority, many tasks have to be accomplished.

This program is the outcome of lively democratic discussion among the various Palestinian forces--something which rarely takes place in the Third World. It constitutes a background and a strategic point for action that ends any chaos which might have prevailed in the Palestinian arena after the departure from Beirut. This program must be a nucleus for the Arab countries around which their efforts should be rallied in support of the Palestinian cause without attempting to abrogate or deviate from this program.

All the friendly countries and those eager to achieve peace in the region should support this program which expresses the viewpoint of the Palestinian people, who adhere to international legitimacy. It will be impossible to achieve peace or stability in this area without fulfilling these people's legitimate rights to self-determination and establishment of their independent state.

The great Palestinian accomplishment in Algiers is evidence of the vividness of the Palestinian democracy and an example of their ability to bolster national unity and build a political stand that can fulfill the Palestinian rights. This accomplishment should be the cornerstone for a national Arab unity of ranks which can tip the balance of power in the region in favor of the Arab peoples and their aims.

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PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

KUWAITI PAPER INTERVIEWS PFLP-GC LEADER

0051530 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 4 Mar 83 p 20

[Interview with Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the popular front for the liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] by AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Algiers--date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Have you settled all the differences and reached a specific point of view that unites all the factions of the Palestinian resistance?

[Answer] We have not reached such an agreement until now.

[Question] Your organization is the only one which is called the big rejector. What is the alternative proposal that can replace the political course which is demanded by the other parties?

[Answer] I wonder why people label us with such a title. Is it because we adhere to the Palestinian national charter on which the PLO is based while the others want to destroy this charter or freeze it in an ice cream carton? Is our adherence to this charter considered rejection?

[Question] What is the alternative that can be proposed at the present time to replace the Reagan plan and the FES plan?

[Answer] We feel that the current balance of forces in our region cannot produce an national and fair settlement and that any settlement in light of the current balance of forces will be a settlement of collusion that undermines our national cause.

[Question] Then, what is required?

[Answer] What is required is a program for changing the current balance of force which was imposed on us after the Lebanese events--a more serious and clearer program that can replace the previous practices. We believe that the previous practices of the PLO were not made according to a program for confronting the settlement plans and that some parties in the PLO in the past had very bad relations with the national and progressive regimes such as Syria, Libya and even Algeria. Some parties sided with Moroccan King Hassan II

against Algeria in the existing disputes. We think that it is necessary to establish a national and progressive Arab front. This is what we have to do. We in the Palestinian revolution have to be a strong front that can gather all the national and progressive forces in our Arab world. For example, the PLO has not played the serious and correct role in uniting the steadfastness and confrontation front. To be more precise, I can say that some parties inside the PLO tried to destroy the steadfastness and confrontation front in order to serve the suspected plans.

[Question] Is it correct that you threatened to withdraw from the executive committee?

[Answer] We did not threaten. We said that we will protect the PLO. We said that we will protect the Palestinian national charter. If the others tried to get the approval of the national council on the FES resolutions, including the article 7 which means the recognition of the Zionist enemy, we could not accept such a situation because that would mean a dangerous detour in the march of the PLO.

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PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

PLO'S ABU JIHAD REITERATES READINESS TO WITHDRAW

NO031537 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 28 Feb 83 p 14

[Excerpts] Algiers. (AL-SAFIR)--Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Wazir (Abu Jihad) has said differences which have appeared among the Palestinian resistance groups are a sort of multiplicity of opinions which strengthen the leadership. He stressed that all sides agree on the need to protect the independent Palestinian national decision and to safeguard national unity.

In an exclusive interview with AL-SAFIR, conducted in the course of the Palestine National Council's meetings in Algiers, Abu Jihad reiterated what has already been announced by the PLO that the presence of PLO forces in Lebanon will not be an obstacle in the way of any effort aimed at bringing about the withdrawal of the Israeli forces. However, he said Lebanon and the PLO must agree on guarantees for the Palestinian civilians' safety.

The rest of the interview follows:

Question: What is your opinion about the demand that the Palestinians must first withdraw from Lebanon?

Answer: We have decided that the PLO will not be an obstacle in the way of any effort which could lead to the withdrawal of the Israeli enemy from Lebanese territory. However, we have some matters which must be agreed upon with the Lebanese authorities within the framework of negotiations between the PLO and the Lebanese Government, particularly the question of guarantees for the Palestinian civilians' safety and their rights as residents in Lebanon living under the local authority and according to the regulations and laws in force.

There is no doubt that all our potentials and capabilities will be used to confront the Israeli aggression in order to bring about Israeli's withdrawal from Lebanon.

Question: What will be your position if a program was drawn up stipulating that a Palestinian withdrawal should take place first?

Answer: This will be the subject of discussion and dialogue between the PLO and the Lebanese Government. Contacts between us are continuing and there is no doubt about the continuation of these relations and their development.

Question: It has been said that Lebanon has recently asked the PLO to announce its readiness to withdraw first from Lebanese territory.

Answer: There is nothing that can impose preconditions on the Palestinian side, because we consider ourselves as brothers using all our efforts to confront the Israeli enemy who wounded the Lebanese, Palestinian and Arab dignity and all efforts must be directed to bring about his withdrawal. On this basis we can sit down, discuss and agree on the possible and required steps.

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PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

'ARAFAT ADVISED INTERVIEWED ON ISRAELI CONTACTS

OFIS:005 Kuwait AL-JADID in Arabic 27 Feb 83 p 17

[Interview with 'Isa al-Sartawi, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser and former PNC member,--date and place not given]

[Excerpt: Question] Many disputes have occurred in Palestinian and Israeli circles regarding contacts. In your opinion, what are the reasons and will they affect the results?

[Answer] The truth is that the Palestinian dispute is not about the principle of contacts or their legitimacy, but about the details. The Palestinian minority which opposes contacts does not object to the principle. It agrees in dialogue with the Israeli Communist Party and moreover, contributes to it. However, its opposition is to the Shelli party and the Israeli Peace Council and to other ideological considerations we disagree with.

The opposition also puts Marxism as a condition for negotiations. And we put the Palestinian national interest as a condition for negotiations and state that we will not dialogue based on the forces which confirm the legal national rights of the Palestinian people regardless of their ideological directions, and this naturally includes the Rakah and other forces. This is different than the other stance which restricts the matters to Rakah.

There was a general Israeli opposition to the peace camp members, calls for boycott, and for restricting them from contacts. These calls are still going on. While the rest of the Israeli peace camp, such as Generals Peled and Yonai, are being utilized by our Palestinian and Arab opposition fronts, we see the other side in courts in Israel as a punishment for their contacts. General Yonai is facing two lawsuits now. The first concerns the joint seminars that we held in European capitals during the Lebanese Palestinian war. The second lawsuit is this war and the Israeli Government by describing the invasion of Lebanon as a hostile act which cannot be justified by security principles or even self defense. It affirmed that the PLO maintained the cease-fire and made its own decisions. The first lawsuit is the way that the organization's organization was conducted and the extent of the Palestinian leadership's control over the military units were affirmed. The second lawsuit was the recent settlement of the organization's affairs (Yasir 'Arafat).

[Question] Are these aims that you explained enough to effect the Palestinian national unity? And if some of them insisted on refusal are you ready to continue?

[Answer] The success of this aim depends on its execution on the grounds of the Palestinian national unity, the clear awareness of its dimensions and conviction about it, in addition to having a certain criteria for the Israeli side in it, and this is a matter which cannot be achieved out of the framework of the national unity and out of putting it over side disputes. I do not say this in exaggeration. I declared the cessation of this dialogue on January 1982 in an interview with the French newspaper LE MONDE published on 22 January 1982. And in fact, I did not continue it only under the burden of war and invasion of Lebanon. And I now say that unless we agree on a clear view of a dialogue and reach a consensus on approving an objective and scientific dialogue then it would be better for us to halt it today and concentrate on educating our cadres on its importance in order to adopt a positive decision on it during the upcoming phase which will achieve clear profits for us in the long run.

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PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

KUWAIT DAILY INTERVIEWS PFLP'S GEORGE HABASH

FD041730 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 3 Mar 83 p 9

[Interview with Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] Secretary General George Habash by Talal al-'Awadi in Algiers--no date given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Many PFLP stands on the issues under discussion range from the affirmative to the negative. What does Dr Habash say?

[Answer] I view the word "yes" as a "mine." This is because in the current balance of forces the principal weapon in the current balance of forces the principal weapon of the Palestinian people is our intrinsic strength. We must mobilize and utilize all our forces. Beirut has taught us a great deal. Above all it has taught us to depend on ourselves. This does not mean that we should ignore our Arab and international alliances. However, [without] depending on anyone in the present circumstances, we would be like one who is building a house on sand.

Therefore, in the post-Beirut stage the Palestinian revolution must mobilize its forces as much as possible, and this cannot take place if we confront them with the word "yes." We must confront them with a clear stand. We also should not abolish the word "no." Indeed, we defend flexibility and diplomacy. We want the support of world public opinion and the support of our allies on the international scene. We do not want them to think that we are intransigent, but we must represent circumstances that are favorable to the Israeli

position. The word "yes" cannot mobilize anyone, nor can it mobilize our people's fighting spirit. At the same time we must not be afraid to say "no, no." We say yes to armed struggle, to political and diplomatic struggle. However, it would be an illusion and a mistake to believe that we can accomplish any political achievement without armed struggle being accompanied by armed struggle.

Therefore, I believe that the word yes can sometimes be "lethal." How can we say yes to the Reagan plan--a plan that does not lead to self-determination or an independent state, but to a permanent occupation? Why should we say "yes?" Why should we not say "no?" This is a political question. If Reagan says "no"

to the PLO, we must say to him: No. Then, we can mobilize our masses to confront a scheme whose only objective is to deny our right to self-determination and an independent state, and indeed to abolish the political entity which we have built throughout the past 15 years. The Reagan plan says: You have no place on the political map. Your existence depends on annexing the West Bank to Jordan.

Thus, as long as the balance of power favors the enemy at present and does not allow us to achieve direct political victories, we must mobilize our masses through a clear and open political stand that is opposed to all the plans which aim is to abort our revolution and liquidate our right to self-determination.

The PFLP must declare a clear, categorical and firm "no" to these plans which do not guarantee our minimum rights.

[Question] Does your political program contradict what has been termed as the common denominators within the Palestine National Council [PNC]?

[Answer] When the PFLP put forth its stand and program, we fully understood that in a national council in which other forces with different programs are represented, we cannot impose our own program on these forces. When we went to the PNC session our mind was open to all views. We believed that the PNC would emerge with a program that was the result of the stands of all the forces in the PNC. Thus, if Fatah has its program, and the PFLP has its program, and the other organizations have their programs, then it would be neutral--if we are scientific and understand well what the phase of national liberation and a national front mean--to say that the program of the PNC and the PLO is the program of the common denominators that bring together all the various trends. One may have been surprised to see the PFLP agreeing to a political program that may not have been the same as the program proposed by the PFLP at the PNC. Many people may see a contradiction in this and ask: How can you reject and agree at the same time.

The fact is that there is no contradiction. The point is how we understand our own program--which represents the maximal stand--and the program that represents the minimal stand. A program that is shared by all the Palestinian organizations, and our rich experience for which we have paid a high price to achieve national unity and democracy.

[Question] The Tripolic and Aden declarations contain two contradicting stands of the front. How do you explain this?

[Answer] In Tripoli we signed the PFLP program. We believe that this program which we signed in Tripoli stemmed from Palestinian reality. That is, rejection of the FES plan, the Reagan plan and all those liquidating plans, and stressed the importance of the military option and the importance of adhering to the Arab popular forces.

However, as I have said, we understand that this is our program [the Aden declaration] with allies. But it does not necessarily mean that it is the front's program. In Aden we signed the program of minimal limit with the

other organizations. We see no contradiction in what we signed in Tripoli and signed in Aden. In Tripoli we signed our program and in Aden we signed the program that secures the minimal limit and preserves the national stand.

And about his assessment of the results of the PNC session, he said: Assessment by necessity is linked to the method of practical implementation of the resolutions. But if you mean assessing the texts of resolutions, I can say that we came out of this council with a political program that includes preserving the national stand and preserving the safety of opinion during a bad Arab era when several countries are almost about to split into leagues. The political program secures for us the continuity of the revolution. We live in difficult times and I believe that the session reached important results if things are practiced in light of these results.

Question: What do the resolutions mean to the PFLP?

Answer: The FES resolutions constitute the minimal level acceptable to Arab political movement. However, as the national council we added two important points to this issue: the first point is that we recorded the importance of taking the military option into consideration because the most dangerous thing about the summit is that it dropped the military option from its choices. We, as the national council and as a revolution demanded that the military option should remain viable. The second point is that we viewed the Arab political movement in view of the FES summit resolutions as the minimal acceptable limit provided that this does not contradict with the PNC program and resolutions. This is meant to provide a safety valve with regard to some Arabs who tried to use FES resolutions as a shelter for dubious moves to recognize the summit.

Question: During his speech before the PNC, Abu Mahir criticized the work method of the PLO executive committee. What method do you desire for the work of the executive committee?

Answer: I want that the organizational program which was approved in 1979 be implemented. This program is capable of eliminating all the organizational problems that surround the organizational aspect of our work.

Question: What does the organizational program consist of the following points:

Answer: The organizational program consists of the following points:

1. The participation of all organizations in all organizational bodies of the PLO.

2. The participation of all forces in the PLO's leading bodies. This has not been implemented. Now, we are at the door of a new stage in our work. We must implement it in order to reach, through the implementation of the organizational program, the goals of our PLO executive committee.

[Question] How long will the Palestinian military forces continue to be distributed far from the lines of confrontation?

[Answer] We are fully convinced that continuing the fight against the Zionist enemy necessitates the presence of our forces either within the occupied territories or in the Arab countries adjacent to them. This issue has been determined, and it cannot be disputed for it is not possible for a fighter who is in Aden to open fire on the Israelis while he is still in Aden and this similarly applies to those in Algeria, Sudan and Tunisia. Hence, we as the PLO have put forth a plan to retrain our forces. Perhaps the word retrain is not a precise term for the purpose of developing the military expertise of these forces and training them on new types of weapons. During this time, the PLO is seeking to find the appropriate geographical location for these forces which will go back to places that surround Palestine. I am hopeful that we shall succeed in returning these forces in a short time to the Arab land that surrounds Palestine in order for them to be able to play their role in fighting the Zionist enemy.

It is unlikely that our forces will go back to Egypt. However, we do have in Jordan and Syria [as published]. Lebanon is still an open battlefield against the enemy and Syria is a steadfast base. I believe that the greatest part of these forces will return to these positions. As for Jordan, part of the fighters will return and join our forces that have camps on Jordan's territory. For example the forces of Badr that took part with us in the fighting in Beirut have positions and camps there.

[Question] It was noticed that there was harmony in the stands of the PFLP, Fatah and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] during the PNC session. Does this mean the existence of previous coordination between you concerning the method of the PNC's work?

[Answer] Several common denominators are shared by the three organizations--Fatah, the PFLP and the DFLP. The matter did not emerge as if there was a conspiracy or a previous coordination among the three organizations. What united us was common denominators. It is natural that common denominators exist with other organizations which are subject to the same circumstances that Fatah, or the DFLP or the PFLP are subjected to.

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PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

PLO'S SARTAWI INTERVIEWED ON PEACE, CONTACTS

LA231547 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 23 Feb 83 p 5

[Special telephone interview with PLO member 'Isam al-Sartawi by Uri Avneri, Ha'olam Haze editor and Sheli member, on 21 February, a day after the former's resignation from the Palestine National Council--place not given]

[Text] (Question) Your resignation gained major headlines in the press, radio and television in Israel. Some wanted to interpret it as a failure of the peace line in the PLO.

[Answer] I am surprised by the enormous attention I gained in the international communication media. My move was a legitimate parliamentary trick and should under no circumstances be viewed as a failure of the peace line in the PLO.

(Question) Was the peace line which many call the 'al-Sartawi' line not harmed?

[Answer] On the contrary. I am happy to note that never before has there been so much attention to my views and so much agreement with them. Had I settled for this success I could have sat down quietly, but I aspire to implement my view as an urgent political need which cannot be put off. This will be the nature of the struggle.

(Question) What did you want to achieve?

[Answer] I am in a critical situation which will satisfy the urgent political need of the Palestinian people. In my opinion, peace serves this need more than anything else. Therefore I wanted to bring about the formulation of a political platform which reflects reality as it is, and which will pave a way toward peace negotiations. This is despite the fact it is clear that the two superpowers facing us, the United States and Israel, do not want peace. This should not prevent us from pursuing the right path.

(Question) Do you have opposition to this?

[Answer] The existence of a variety of views is legitimate. Some of my colleagues in the PLO would like to wait until accepting the FES summit resolution. Others would go further than this and accept a direct and unconditional ceasefire.

[Question] And this was not granted:

[Answer] Unfortunately my movement, Fatah, decided to restrict itself to one speaker only, my brother Abu Iyad. A technical problem arose: How to speak when my movement gave up this right. This was where the difficulty lay. I believe that under the existing special circumstances I should ask to be relieved of the movement's discipline.

[Question] What special circumstances are you referring to?

[Answer] There are special, grave and urgent circumstances. There is a state of emergency. I am worried about the situation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and we have no time to deal with trifles. The present Israeli Government is entertaining schemes to expel members of my people from the West Bank and Gaza Strip to Jordan, and is drawing up plots against Jordan itself. In my opinion, one should take urgent action. I could not sit down quietly. Hence the procedural struggle I waged, a struggle which I did not win, unfortunately. It is against this background that the confrontation evolved.

[Question] Will you continue your activity?

[Answer] I am serving the Palestinian people. I have devoted my entire life and energy to my people and will persist in this.

I want to emphasize that while resigning, I still insisted that the PLO is the exclusive representative of the Palestinian people. The struggle for improving democracy in the PLO is a struggle for improving and strengthening the PLO.

Second, I want to express my strong and unchanging support for my friend and brother, Abu 'Ammar (Yasir 'Arafat).

Anything I did does not detract anything from the above two points.

[Question] Will you continue to serve as a member of the Palestine National Council (PNC)?

[Answer] It is not necessary to be a PNC member in order to serve the Palestinian people in the PLO framework. One can serve as a council member and one can serve also without being a council member.

However, beyond anything else, the PLO must be strengthened in whatever manner possible. Primarily and foremost we should strengthen democracy in the PLO so as to guarantee that it will serve as a forum for all the views prevailing among the Palestinian people.

[Question] For instance?

[Answer] I would have very much liked to see a stronger expression of the wishes and needs of our brethren, the inhabitants of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and that these be given proper expression in the PLO's deliberations. For this we need democracy.



I regret that by depriving me of the right of speech it was impossible for me to discount the criticisms leveled at some west bankers. I wanted to defend them in the Council.

(Question) Will the contacts with the Israeli peace forces continue?

(Answer) Of course they will. The council will approve these contacts. The struggle was not waged about this. If this had been the only thing I wanted to achieve I would have easily had the upper hand.

What do you want?--After all, it is an Israeli citizen, a member of the Israeli Council for Israel-Palestine Peace, Amnon Kapeliuk, who is sitting and covering the UNO deliberations. This is almost incredible. He was so popular that he hardly had time to sit down and write. Everyone wanted to talk with him, drink and eat with him, and this included the rejectionist front member, as well. He was seen eating and drinking in the company of people that up until 6 months ago it would have been inconceivable that they would talk to an Israeli. This is an enormous revolution. No, no, there was no questioning of the contacts with Israelis.

(Question) What will be the follow up to this?

(Answer) We will continue to act and struggle together, in ever-widening circles. I am convinced that a mass Palestinian peace movement which will be active in this direction will shortly emerge, and the problem will be to guarantee that there will be a comparable Israeli peace movement. This is our dilemma.

There was not a rupture for the peace camp in the PLO. Its condition has never been as good as it is now. The problem I aroused was one of parliamentary procedure and did not concern the principles which I support.

(Question) Question is all right then, is it not?

(Answer) Everything is all right.

## PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

### BRIEFS

FES PLAN, PNC SESSION--Brothers on the road to revolution and liberation: While discussing the political situation, the Palestine National Council [PNC] ponder for a long time about the Arab peace plan proposed by the Fes summit. Many questions were asked about this plan by the majority of the council's members. One of these questions was: What exactly does the seventh point in this plan mean? And if its interpretation is open for discussion, how can we establish the Palestinian interpretation of this point and in what form? Another question is: Does the Fes plan mean renouncing the military option? How can we establish such an option as the only sure means of restoring Palestinian rights and Arab territories? Naturally, the discussion of these two issues was connected with the nature of the relations between the Arab Left and Right; the Arab progressive forces and the Arab reactionary forces. This discussion was also connected with the question: Where does the Palestinian revolution stand? Where are its alliances and against which wall should it lean in facing the imperialist-Zionist onslaught. The discussion of the Fes plan was also connected with the question: Does the Fes plan constitute a bridge to the Reagan plan which is completely rejected or is it a means to confront the Reagan plan? The council's discussions revolved on these questions. The result of this discussion came in the PNC resolutions which called for adopting the military option and affirmed that the Palestinian concept of the Fes plan is that it does not contradict with Palestinian rights. [Palestine broadcast: unattributed commentary] [Text] [JN022110 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Mar 83]

CSO: 4400/229

SAUDI ARABIA

NATION'S EFFORTS TO RECONCILE VARIOUS REGIONAL DISPUTES DESCRIBED

Riyadh AL-YAMAMAH in Arabic No 736, 26 Jan-1 Feb 83 pp 28-31

[Article: Following the Latest Activity with Iraq and Syria, a Major Saudi Official to AL-YAMAMAH: We Are Determined To Contain Current Arab Disputes]/

[Text] The tour which His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the crown prince, made to Iraq, Jordan and Syria, and the visits to Riyadh which came after this tour, represent one aspect of a wide-ranging diplomatic activity which is based on the "determination" to freeze the numerous Arab disputes and to resolve them. What is the status of these disputes? What are their effects on Arab action in the coming stage?

With the advent of the eighties, the Arab political scene turned into a field of open inter-Arab struggle, and joint Arab action declined to its lowest level, having reached the peak of success in the October 1973 war. Although Egypt's departure from the frontline trenches after President al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem in 1977, and its subsequent linkup to the Camp David agreements, were a major blow to Arab solidarity and created great disruption in the strategic alliance with Israel, the Arab countries managed to transcend this crisis, temporarily at least, in the Baghdad conference of 1978 and succeeded in adopting a relatively unified position.

The period following the Baghdad conference witnessed complete stagnation in the realm of Arab coordination, at a time when the Arab countries were in the greatest need of concentrated action to compensate for the loss of Egypt. What happened, however, was that the joint Arab defense agreement was not revised, and, as one of its basic foundations, Egypt, was paralyzed, meeting a severe political and military officials, such as the periodic meetings of the heads of the Arab army staffs--a tradition which prevailed a short time before the October war and bore fruit--diminished, and divergent political and military priorities and techniques and methods of effecting a more unified Arab approach. In brief, one can say that the Baghdad conference succeeded in freezing the Arab camp cohesive but failed to set out a new strategy for Arab political and military action in the upcoming stage. The first consequences of this shortcoming appeared in the al-Litani operation in 1982, when Israeli forces overran most of the South of Lebanon, without any prior Arab response.

Toward the end of 1979, another bomb exploded in the Arab area when the Iranian revolution occurred, adding a new burden to the state of fragmentation in Arab ranks. From the start of this decade, the Arab struggles developed, constituting a real "labyrinth" whose lines are intertwined to a striking degree. These lines came into being because of the unremitting efforts of Zionist forces to create more contradictions and add crises which would carry within themselves the seeds of further disputes among Arab parties themselves. In the context of this deteriorating Arab situation, Israel achieved numerous gains (for example, the strike at the Iraqi Osirak nuclear reactor in June 1981, the frustration of the first Fez summit in November 1981, and finally the occupation of Lebanon in 1982).

Personal diplomatic efforts were needed to contain the increasing Arab disputes. All during the recent period, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has had the lion's share of the efforts aimed at clearing up the Arab atmosphere. The fact is that the kingdom had been the party best qualified for this role. Saudi diplomacy, which has succeeded in failing to fall into the "labyrinth" of struggles, the vanguard role which the leadership in the kingdom plays in the regional and international contexts, and the Islamic and national responsibility which it feels, all made it inevitable that this country would take a stand affecting the course of Arab relations. They all also indicated that the efforts would succeed more than they warned of failure.

The goal of the Saudi effort was to attain bilateral reconciliations among various parties, or to confine disputes to the narrowest possible scope and contain side issues so they would not affect the course of the Arab holy war to regain usurped Arab rights. However, this has not been an easy task. The Arab "labyrinth" has become so complex that it has become difficult to separate its various elements and determine the features of the lines in it. The essential elements of the dispute have become intermixed with secondary problems that have made the situation more complex and obscure.

Casting an overall glance at the picture, the following important features stand out:

#### The Iraqi-Syrian Dispute

This serious dispute between two of the most important states facing Israel has historic deep roots that it is not possible to explain here. However, it exploded recently in a violent manner as a direct result of the political coup d'etat in Iran and the outbreak of the Iranian-Iraqi war in September 1980. The new Iranian regime adopted a hostile position toward Iraq and the Gulf countries in general from the first moment, and Tehran, through certain frightening forms of conduct and direct statements, revealed its intention to shake the political security and stability in the area. Iraq was the first target in the ayatollahs' scheme. A series of provocations started which prompted the two countries to enter into a long, vicious war. While most Arab countries declared support for Iraq's position, Syria held a different view, leaning toward the Iranian party, which prompted relations between Damascus and Baghdad to reach the point of certain danger. The Iraqis do not just

reduce Syria for its moral and political support for the Iranian side--they also believe that the Syrians have gone farther than that, putting their military resources at the service of the Iranian war effort. Iraqi doubts were further aggravated when Syria decided to prohibit the transit of Iraqi oil through the pipeline that passes over its territory to the port of Tripoli in Lebanon last year, and matters were made worse by concentrated media attacks in the media on both sides, since these attacks destroyed every initiative toward rapprochement that one could discern from constant diplomatic contacts to settle the dispute between the two parties.

#### The Jordanian-Syrian Dispute

This is not very different from the context of the struggle going on between Damascus and Baghdad. While Syria has put its weight on the side of Iran, Amman's political and strategic calculations have caused it to place all its resources in the support of Iraq in its war with Iran. Western correspondents say that Jordan has not ventured to irritate Syria through this option so much as it has celebrated Iran's designs and its schemes, which are aimed at changing the hypothetical war over the long run. The aspects of similarity and the firm ties between the Syrian-Iraqi and Syrian-Jordanian conflicts are apparent even in the style of propaganda and media attacks.

The struggle between the two neighboring countries reached its peak in 1981 when Syria mobilized its armed forces along the border with Jordan after making accusations that it was supporting the activity of Syrian opposition groups. At a time when a dangerous war would have started to appear on the horizon, it was for the concentrated efforts the government of the Kingdom of Jordan Amman did at that time, when His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz made shuttle trips between Damascus and Amman to reduce the severity of the situation and managed to prevent crisis from developing. However, regardless of what the two countries have not been restored to their normal state or in the level the nation would expect between two fraternal countries that have to be standing in the same trench rather than having one group of forces against the forces of the other.

#### The Role of the Arab League in the Disputes

The Arab League has not stayed out of the trap of struggles among movements or states, especially after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the Israeli-Palestinian Organization's departure from Beirut.

The Arab League's leadership now finds itself in an uneasy situation.

The Arab League has adopted a strategy to deal with the peace initiatives that have been put forward by the Arab states and the PLO and the Syrian Arab Republic. The League has tried to deal with the partial points of Arab disputes and the Arab League has been unable to do so. The League has been unable to deal with the resistance movements and the deterioration in Palestinian-Syrian relations. The League has been unable to deal with the situation with King Husayn along with the Arab League and the Arab League has been unable to deal with the situation from the Arab Bank.

Arab diplomatic circles fear that disputes in the Syrian-Jordanian-Palestinian triangle will develop in a manner that will paralyze the Arab camp's flexibility for maneuvering in the coming stage and will threaten the unity of the Palestinian movement itself and deprive it of the ability to take a unified position. There are a number of signs that assert that these fears are well-founded. The Palestinian groups that are linked by close ties to Damascus have started to bring their opposition to Yasir Arafat's strategy out of the Palestinian organizational context into the open, with the result that it is assuming the character of a direct attack. The question that Arab and international political circles are raising now is to what extent Syria will go in its support for the Palestinian detachments that are opposed to the policy of Jordanian-Palestinian rapprochement in particular and the matter of bargaining over a political solution with the American administration in general.

#### The Latest Saudi Activity

The importance of setting the Arab house in order and the importance of the positive returns that will accrue to our modern history from that process have caused the Saudi leadership to direct all its weight once again toward the long road it has covered for itself on behalf of this goal. In spite of the growing complexity that has been observed in the "labyrinth" of relations among the parties concerned, Saudi contacts have not been suspended; rather, they have been intensified in an obvious manner in the recent period. Riyadh, in the past few days, has been the site of a number of meetings at the summit and below-summit level. His Majesty King Fahd has received a number of Arab leaders and officials with whom he has discussed the status of Arab disputes, expressing his extreme anxiety over these disputes and their negative effects on aspirations toward Arab solidarity and a unified confrontation with the enemy. We do not doubt that these leaders and officials read, in the words of his majesty, the kingdom's total determination to mobilize all its resources to contain these disputes and the fact that his majesty will personally devote himself to this task.

Last week His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the crown prince was personally making a tour of Baghdad, Damascus, Amman and Riyadh on behalf of the Saudi leadership's great objective of avoiding and containing the Arab disputes. AL-YAMAMAH'S sources state that his majesty held concentrated discussions with President Saddam Husayn and President Hafiz al-Asad in the desire to arrive at common ground which would be the basis for a take-off toward a comprehensive liquidation of the disputes. These sources say that the kingdom has not ceased to devote its entire activity to clearing up the Arab atmosphere in order to contain the disputes in their three focal points, Syria, Iraq and Jordan.

Recent Saudi diplomatic activity has been founded on certain strategic bases and premises, the most important of which are:

The three parties, Syria, Iraq and Jordan, represent a basic pillar in the arena of confrontation with Israel, any disruptions in relations among these

Countries will have the effect of reflecting negatively on the course of the Palestinian cause, and relations in the whole Arab world, and the three countries are basic elements in the effort to reach a permanent comprehensive peace in the Middle East region.

The current dispute among these parties are of a reciprocal nature, in the sense that a resolution to the conflict between Syria and Iraq will spontaneously lead to a resolution of the conflict between Damascus and Amman and the resolution of the conflict between Damascus and the resistance.

The Iraqi-Iranian conflict has local points of air current disputes, and the continuation of this war will entail grave dangers which will threaten the security of the entire region and threaten an expansion of the scope of the war, the destruction of Arab powers, and the creation of further blocs within the Arab camp.

Throughout this time, the Saudi leadership has devoted the utmost attention to realizing the goal set by supporting all efforts at mediation that have been made through the Islamic Conference Organization and the United Nations, alongside the unilateral initiatives that a number of countries, most recently Algeria, have made.

Although these efforts have not yet succeeded in stopping the fighting, because of their rejection of the mediation efforts, the Saudi leadership has continued to support every initiative that is aimed at persuading the two countries to sit down at the negotiating table.

On 12/11/53, I received a letter from Algeria on the most recent developments in the Algerian situation. Mohamed Taki Ibrahim, the foreign minister of Algeria, was in Tehran.

The ... ..

...all these complex and interesting struggles have to  
...the Arab's defeat and their weakness in con-  
...down the Arab. It would to a  
...to your Israeli superiority in a context  
...It would have been possible to impart great  
...of Arab rights and we faced the world with a

[illegible]



the nation to offer the world a picture of a just peace that has been agreed upon, and not the least trivial of which, either, is the dissipation of the gains that the Arab cause has acquired in international circles in the context of official assemblies and public opinion. The kingdom will not permit failure in these sorts of matters no matter what the price may be, proceeding from its historic role and its ancient and modern cultural responsibility. This is what prompted a major Saudi official to tell us with total clarity, during a conversation about the latest Saudi activity, "The kingdom is totally determined to exert all its efforts and put all its weight behind the elimination of Arab disputes at this decisive stage of the nation's history. We have the objective, through all of this, of making the enemy miss the opportunity to exploit such conflicts in order to consummate his goals and designs in the region."

He then added, "Our role has always been to dissipate this sort of conflict and eliminate it, and for this reason the recent Saudi activity is not new, but has perhaps acquired special importance because of the critical circumstances that the history of the Arab and Islamic nations is passing through, and also through the delicacy with which this stage is characterized. It is one that prompts the Saudi leaders now to determine totally to contain existing disputes, which have been a continuous cause of the dissipation of the positive aspects of the common Arab orientation. The Arabs today have reached a stage in their struggle with the enemy which no longer will allow for further disputes or even the continuation of the routine old ones."

Perhaps it is out of this enhanced awareness of the sensitivity of the current historic stage that the insistence of the Saudi official on the word "determination to resolve Arab disputes" arose in the conversation he had with AL-YAMAMAH. This official did not conceal his optimism at the depth of feeling of historic responsibility among Arab leaders. Nor did he conceal his satisfaction with the successes the Saudi efforts have met with in their good offices. However, his view of the actual state of these disputes caused him to indicate to us that one should not be immersed in an optimism where it might lead one to suppose that these disputes have actually been entirely contained and dissipated. He went on to say, "I cannot tell you that we have remedied everything now. However, we have, at least managed to pave the way for dialogue and discussion. The intent is directed at freezing these disputes in principle, and we are determined to do so. Then, God willing, at a future stage, the issue of the resolution of these problems will come, if our brother leaders help us by their sincere intent to eliminate their disputes."

It appears that the Saudi "determination" that this Saudi official was stressing will realize a new level of success on the benevolent road it is following, because the kingdom is almost the only Arab country that can talk to everyone and has kept the doors of dialogue open to everyone. This status has put it in a position to play its role in full in bringing about this regrouping. This status also guarantees that its words will be heard by the various parties.

The same Saudi official says, "We have kept our doors open to everyone. More than that, we have always tried to transcend many marginal disputes with some



of our brothers, indeed disputes that some people, through faulty reckoning, have intended to trump up with us. We have had only one important intention in this, and that has been to maintain room for dialogue, help the Arabs' statements united and to unify their orientations on their seminal issues, foremost among these being the Palestinian cause, to which the kingdom has continued to devote all its resources, considering that to be its foremost cause in its modern struggle. We preserve good relations with everyone, and that gives us a historic opportunity to talk to everyone in order to freeze disputes, then begin to eliminate them. We have good relations with the Syrians, the Iraqis, the Jordanians and the organization. We have good relations with all the Arabs, because our national role and our historic responsibility impose this upon us. Indeed, this role and this responsibility can permit us no platform other than this. As long as we are sincere in our intention to carry this role out and assume this responsibility, we have great trust that almighty and glorious God will take us by the hand and give us success in what is in the interests of the Arab nation and the Islamic nation."

The Saudi official stressed "The historic circumstances of the Arab nation will not allow further disputes, since there is no way to invalidate the enemy's designs without a coalition among Arabs and unity in their statements. We can see what Israel is doing now in Lebanon in the way of obstructing this solution, so that it can remain in the fraternal country for the longest possible time, because that will make it easy to push through most of its basic goals and objectives in the invasion of Lebanon. Moreover, keeping the problem of Lebanon hanging without a solution will obstruct all efforts to solve the Palestinian cause itself. The relationship between the two problems, as everyone knows, is an extremely organic one. The Saudi leaders will never accept these Israeli fabrications. For those who are not aware of it, the kingdom is ceaselessly putting its weight behind frustrating the enemy's procrastinations, and it is in constant contact with officials in the American administration to exercise their true role in repressing Begin. At an earlier stage, the discussions at Khaldah reached the point of deterioration in view of the problems the Israelis created to compel the Lebanese to make the concessions the enemy administration wanted. However, the kingdom admonished the Americans that it would not permit any immoral practices against the Lebanese, that it would not permit Lebanon to be severed from the Arabs as the price the enemy was demanding for withdrawal, and that it was necessary to work to bring about total independent sovereignty for a free Lebanon. We are still, up to this moment, monitoring what is going on on Lebanese territory with the utmost interest, are making our contacts and are not abandoning Lebanon as a tasty morsel for Israel or anyone else."

In his conversation, the Saudi official constantly asserted "The Saudi leadership's permanent preoccupation is the Lebanese problem and the Palestinian cause, and the kingdom will offer all its resources and exert all its efforts for the sake of these two issues. Among these are the sincere efforts to eliminate Arab disputes then freeze them so that the approach will be a united one. The recent efforts made with Syria and Iraq enter into this context, because of the importance of the two countries in terms of their role in the confrontation. Disputes between the two of them will lead to negative

features in the unified Arab position. In addition, they will lead to entanglements in the positions of the Liberation Organization itself. As we said previously, it is true that the organization started to take its decisions in the recent period with a great independence that had not been available to it in the past in this area, but, in spite of everything, the unity of Arab statements will further help the proposals of the Palestinian leaders and their struggle. It is here that an additional dimension of the importance of what the kingdom is doing now, what it aspires to accomplish, and what it is 'determined' to carry out enters in."

As part of this Saudi plan to freeze and dispel Arab disputes, it was necessary that we ask the major Saudi official about Egypt's situation, especially following the recent positions it took, which might inspire much optimism. This official gave us a brief sentence on this matter which we believe has great, important significance. He said, "Perhaps it would be good for Egypt and the Arabs not to hasten, at least now, to return to the conditions that governed relations before the Camp David agreements."

We interpret this statement in conjunction with what the Palestinian leadership has said on some occasions, that Israel wants Egypt to withdraw from the Camp David agreements so that it can devise a new problem by which it can strive to slow down the peace efforts, provoke confusion over Arab intentions, turn people's attention away from the Lebanese problem and drag the issue into new labyrinths which will lead to grave complications that might result in catastrophes that the world will have no control over.

We have previously stated in this magazine that the return of Egypt now will not be in the interests of the Arabs or in the interests of the Egyptians, and is not necessary at this stage. As long as we can read feelings of concern over our major issues and serious worries in Egyptian proposals, that might suffice until new circumstances are created that will be more appropriate for Egypt to return to Arab ranks.

#### The Task and the Obstacles

The sacred task which the Saudi leadership is undertaking in order to unify Arab ranks represents an enormous, thorny responsibility. The obstacles are many and the Zionist forces and their allies are following a programmatic, organized approach in order to sow conflicts among the various Arab countries. On many occasions, the leading lights of Israeli policy have revealed their intentions regarding Arab solidarity.

Here the kingdom is once again a target of vicious Zionist media attacks, especially from the media in Israel itself, in view of the serious threat the Saudi activity represents; indeed, it is the real source of the threat, by which we mean Arab solidarity and the closing of ranks.

It is logical that Saudi efforts should come up against many obstacles. Regardless of the conclusions these latest moves will reach, the important thing is that the doors to dialogue remain open and that the force of the current drive be sustained.

God will bring success.

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CS0: 4404/230

## CAUSES OF, SOLUTIONS TO GAS CRISIS DISCUSSED

Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 23 Jan 83 p 5

[Article by Salma Kamil: "Gas Crisis as Viewed by Responsible Sides; General Director of Fuel Company: Pressure on Gas Is High and Reason Is Imbalance Between Prices of Fuels; General Director of Defense Plants Establishment: Crisis Is Not New and Error Was in Delaying Construction of New Plant; Our Production of Gas and Cylinders Is Not Enough for Local Consumption; Aleppo Plant About to Be Completed, With Inauguration in May and With Production Amounting to One Half Million Cylinders Annually"]

[Text] A number of problems encounter the citizen's daily life and accumulate until they become a real crisis preoccupying both the authorities in charge and the citizen.

One of the crises which the man-in-the-street has been discussing since the start of 1982 is the gas crisis. The signs of this crisis are embodied in the difficulty of obtaining the gas cylinder at either the supply [official] price or a higher price and in the bottlenecks experienced by the gas distributors.

Is there a real gas crisis or is it fabricated?

Let us turn to the conclusions reached by a People's Assembly committee formed especially to study the gas situation in the country. This committee has reached major conclusions, the most important being that the country is suffering from a shortage of gas cylinders, of gas distributors and of heating units, with this shortage reaching the extent where some governorates do not at all have such units.

The conclusions of this committee need to be discussed. Perhaps the question that rises immediately is:

What are the dimensions of this crisis and is the shortage confined to the gas cylinders or does it also apply to the gas supply itself?

Country's Gas Production is Inadequate

If we examine the statistics, we find that the country's production of liquid gas which we obtain from the refineries is not enough for the local consumption.

In 1980, the Fuels Company planned for a consumption of 108,000 tons and distributed 118,000 tons.

In 1982, the plan called for the distribution of 155,000 tons whereas 172,000 tons were actually distributed, plus 5,000 tons for the factories. This means that the consumption exceeded the plan by 13 percent.

We were supposed to import 18,000 tons in 1982 whereas we actually imported 65,000 tons. So there is a gas crisis as long as we purchase this commodity for hard currency. But why all this pressure on gas?

Engineer Mustafa al-Lajami, the general director of the Syrian Company for the Storage and Distribution of Petroleum Products, believes that oil consumption is rising abnormally. This is clearly indicated by the distributed volume. He attributes the reason to the imbalance between the price of gas and the prices of other fuels, such as diesel oil and kerosene. This has encouraged people to shift to the use of gas even though it is unsafe for health, especially when used for heating.

If, according to the general director of fuels, gas were consumed for household purposes only, there would be no problem. The problem is that the private sector chicken hatcheries [farms] which were using diesel oil have turned to the use of gas for heating purposes thus taking away a part of the citizens' allocations. Matters have even reached the point where the bakeries in the governorates of Dar'a and al-Suwayda' have turned to the use of gas to bake their bread. This is a new phenomenon. But the demand for gas and the increased consumption of gas were not taken into consideration in the fourth plan. New filling units were supposed to be built in 1976. Now we cannot stop operating the existing units in order to carry out maintenance work.

The fifth plan has also failed to make any reference to the possibility of increasing the number of the gas cylinder [filling] units.

#### Numerous Projects

What has Mahruqat Company [domestic oil company] done to overcome this shortage? Engineer al-Lajami says:

At present, we have no problem with the storage operation and the supplies are enough for 3 months at the average. But some governorates have no storage tanks.

We have presented a comprehensive study on the countries' needs of commercial and strategic stores of oil products. In the study, presented to the Council of Ministers in 1982, we anticipated the current shortage. But we alone cannot decide the site of the storage tanks. Several other sides participate with us in making this decision. Securing the storage tanks requires a comprehensive study. As for the increased consumption, we have numerous gas projects, the most important being the construction of a major filling unit in Baniyas in 1983 to meet the needs of the coastal area.

We have also concluded contracts for building 5 other units in the same year in the governorates of Idlib, al-Raqqah, Dayr al-Zawr, al-Suwayda' and Dar'a so that there may be in each governorate an independent unit to meet the need. Contracts



will be concluded this year for a major gas unit in 'Adra, in addition to the existing unit, to be completed, along with the new Aleppo unit, in 1984. This means that we will have covered nearly all the governorates. A plant for the gas accompanying the production of oil is being currently built in al-Rumaylan and will be completed shortly, according to what is being said. Can this plant not meet a part of the country's need?

The general director of fuels says that the establishment will get 43,000 tons of gas [annually] from the new plant and that a filling unit will be built in al-Hasakah Governorate to meet the needs of the eastern part of the country.

#### Streamlining Consumption

The general director then proceeds to deal with need for consumption streamlining which has been applied strictly by the industrial countries, thus producing an oil surplus in the markets, and says that such streamlining is also required of the developing countries which purchase their oil with hard currency.

Insofar as Mahruqat Company is concerned, it is preparing a memorandum to be submitted to the Council of Ministers and proposing that gas be supplied by pipe to modern buildings, provided that the Ministry of Housing build the needed extensions soundly and that a gas tank be installed in every modern building.

This issue is still under discussion.

#### Shortage of Gas Cylinders

This is one side of the gas crisis which the citizen may not be interested in knowing. The other side is felt immediately and is embodied in the shortage of gas cylinders. The bottleneck here does not touch just one side but rather includes the side manufacturing the cylinders and the side distributing them, namely Mahruqat Company and the Defense Plants Establishment which is the country's only cylinder-producing plant. Mahruqat Company's general director says in this regard that the need for gas cylinders has been estimated as follows: 375,000 cylinders in 1980, a total of 745,000 cylinders in 1981 and a total of 600,000 cylinders in 1982.

These figures include the cylinders produced by the Defense Plants Establishment and the imported cylinders.

In 1982, Mahruqat Company imported 300,000 cylinders and there is still a shortage.

The 1983 needs have been estimated at 448,000 cylinders.

When asked about the percentage of the need supplied by the Defense Plants Establishment, the general director said: The establishment was supposed to deliver to us 150,000 cylinders in 1982 but delivered only 91,000 cylinders.

#### Damascus Plant Does Not Meet Need

This is what Mahruqat Company says about the gas crisis. What is the opinion of the other side, namely the Defense Plants Establishment? Maj Gen Ghazi Abu 'Aql,

the general director of the Defense Plants Establishment, says that the shortage in the number of gas cylinders is not new. It started years ago because the production of our present plant in Damascus has not been able to meet the big population growth and the increased dependence on gas as a basic source of energy.

To avert this shortage, a committee was formed of several sides in 1976 and submitted an economic study in which it proposed building a new gas cylinders plant near one of the refineries. The plan was presented to the Council of Ministers for approval.

In 1977, we were instructed to develop the existing plant so as to double the production. In other words, the plan for building a new plant was postponed. This was a big mistake.

Afterwards, we took steps to develop the present plant in Damascus, including the replacement of some equipment, so as to raise our production to 160,000 cylinders in 1981 whereas the average production has been 100,000 cylinders. In 1982, we were not able to produce more than 100,000 cylinders because of the shortage of raw materials.

#### New Plant in Aleppo

What is important is that the idea of building the plant remained alive but other sides got involved, including the Ministry of Industry, represented in the Engineering Industries Establishment which was entrusted with presenting an economic study on the plant. This establishment submitted a study saying that the plant was not economically feasible.

Maj Gen Abu 'Aql adds:

Even though I am convinced technically and economically that the plant should be built by the Defense Plants Establishment, we requested, for numerous reasons, to be relieved of building the plant. But after numerous discussions, we took over [responsibility for building] the plant. In November 1981, the study on building a new gas cylinders plant was approved by the authorities concerned.

Immediately thereafter, we formed a committee to select the plant site and our choice fell on Aleppo for economic reasons, considering that an already completed building is available there, that it is close to the eastern area and that distribution is easy, especially since Mahruqat Company will build a gas filling plant in Aleppo. This provides all the factors that assist production.

When will the work be completed? This is a projected question. The committee formed by the People's Assembly to discuss the gas problem has said that production will begin at the start of 1983.

Maj Gen Abu 'Aql says:

We had promised to start in January 1983. Actually, the building and the workshops are ready. We have also purchased the machinery. This means that we have covered the major part of building the plant. I expect the production to start next May, i.e., we will be only 4 months behind the scheduled inauguration date.

As for the plant capacity, it will amount to 200,000 cylinders per shift, as requested by the authorities concerned. This means that our cylinder production, along with the Damascus plant, will amount to 600,000 cylinders annually.

The inauguration difficulties insofar as the new plant is concerned are few because the technical cadre is present and the workers can be trained at the Damascus plant. This is in addition to the long experience we have gained in this industry. The real difficulty lied in securing the raw materials which have caused our production at the Damascus plant to drop from 160,000 cylinders in 1981 to 100,000 cylinders in 1982.

So we will wait anxiously until next May when the new plant's production starts so that we will not be compelled to import, that is if matters proceed as they should and if the raw materials are secured.

Has coordination been established with Mahruqat Company in this regard?

Maj Gen Abu 'Aql says: We have formed a committee from the Public Defense Plants Establishment and Mahruqat Company to study the issue of importation. We have said that the country is actually in need of gas cylinders but the number that Mahruqat Company has decided to import is very large, in our opinion. This is why we proposed that the company import a limited number to fill the gap until we complete building the plant but the company has refused.

At a time when \$7.5 millions were allocated for importing gas cylinders, we have encountered numerous difficulties in getting credit to purchase the machinery. Moreover, the plant has been financed by the surplus profit of the Defense Plants Establishment. Mahruqat Company says that it imports the gas cylinder for \$9.36, delivered to its warehouses, whereas it purchases the cylinder from the Defense Plants Establishment for 90 Syrian pounds and adds that the establishment is now demanding 116 pounds per cylinder, keeping in mind that the [imported] cylinder meets the technical standards. In reply to this statement, the general director of the Defense Plants Establishment says that the establishment maintains a certain standard of technology and safety, even if this costs more, and that price is not a yardstick to evaluate any product.

#### New Safety Valve

This leads us to ask about the incidents of gas cylinder explosions. What is the establishment's opinion on these explosions?

The establishment experts, according to Maj Gen Abu 'Aql, [usually] accompany the police investigating the explosion incidents. So far, the investigations have proven that no cylinder manufactured by the Defense Plants Establishment has exploded and that all the incidents that have taken place are the result of cylinders smuggled into the country.



Still, Maj Gen Abu 'Aql points out the importance of maintenance and agrees in this regard with engineer al-Lajami who says that there is a maintenance center in Homs and that every cylinder received for filling is examined. Moreover, Mahrugat Company is awaiting the production of the new plant in Aleppo to withdraw the old cylinders from circulation.

We also have a plan to install a new safety valve in all cylinders to enhance the safety factor and to reduce the smuggling operations.

8494

CSO: 4004/235

USSR TO CONDUCT SYRIAN AIR DEFENSE VIA SATELLITES

TA201152 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Feb 83 p 1

["Exclusive" report from California by Beni Landau]

[Text] Los Angeles--The Soviet Union has recently supplied Syria with a sophisticated system of communications via satellites which will enable the Russian command in Moscow to intervene directly in dogfights taking place over Syrian skies. This report, quoting "U.S. intelligence sources," was published on Friday by the LOS ANGELES TIMES.

According to the paper, all data pertaining to the state of alertness of Syrian missiles, interceptors and radars that is received in Damascus will be relayed to the supreme command in Moscow via a satellite system. This data will provide Soviet generals with information in real time terms about events in the battlefield.

The LOS ANGELES TIMES correspondent notes that in addition to \$2 billion worth of equipment some 3,000 Soviet crewmen have recently also arrived in Syria. The Russians have also stationed a modern radar system in Syria which is designed to guide surface-to-air SA-10's against missiles. This is the first time that such a system has been stationed outside the boundaries of the Soviet Union.

A senior U.S. administration official described the new Syrian air defense system as "a new chapter" in the balance of power in the region which will call on Israel "to be prepared to sustain more losses both in people and equipment." From the political point of view, the official believes that the rate of losses would be unacceptable.

The Soviet aid effort to its main ally in the Middle East is explained in Washington as "a show of commitment" of the Soviet Union toward Syria and as a signal to the United States that the Kremlin intends to go on being a central factor in the balance of power in the region.

CSO: 4400/230

## SYRIAN CP MEMO ON THREATS AGAINST SYRIA

JN035055 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2015 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Text] Damascus, 3 Mar (SANA)--The Central Committee of the Syrian Communist Party has strongly condemned the campaign of falsehoods against Syria--a campaign sparked off by Syria's national progressive policy which antagonizes imperialism and Zionism and by its rejection of the aggressive schemes and confrontation of the expansionist Israeli ambitions.

In a memorandum addressed to 110 world socialist, progressive and democratic parties and popular organizations, the committee said that serious dangers have recently emerged particularly against Syria. The Central Committee noted the recent Israeli threats to strike at and destroy Syria's economic and defensive centers with a view to subjugating it. These threats were accompanied by a U.S. State Department official protest against Syria's possession of defensive missiles and its reinforcement of its defensive capabilities.

The committee's memorandum stressed that these campaigns against Syria are also accompanied by serious military preparations indicating an imminent transition from the stage of preparation for aggression to the stage of actual aggression. It also stressed that by such threats Israel aims at dealing a blow to Syria in an attempt to force it to change its progressive and national trend, to liquidate the Palestinian cause of a people who have legitimate rights, to turn Lebanon into a U.S.-Israeli protectorate, to reinforce the reactionary strongholds and the capitulatory trends adopted by the Egyptian regime and to strike at the Arab-Soviet friendship.

The Central Committee pointed out that by achieving these targets imperialism seeks to tighten its grip on the whole Arab region and its oil wealth in particular. It stressed that Syria will not remain idle in the face of any aggression launched against it and that it will never be alone because strong friends, headed by the USSR, stand by its side.

It said that Syria's reinforcement of its defenses to confront the impending dangers is a legitimate right that is in complete harmony with the UN and international charters and is in the interest of world peace.

The Central Committee's memorandum called on the world socialist, progressive and democratic parties and popular organizations to intensify their solidarity with Syria's steadfastness against the imperialist and Zionist pressures and with Syria's preparedness to confront any imperialist U.S.-Israeli aggression.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OFFICIAL DISCUSSES LOANING POLICY, PROBLEMS

Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 22 Jan 83 p 7

[Interview with Ayman Hamzawi, Director of Planning at Cooperative Agricultural Bank by Sa'd al-Qasim; "How Should Agricultural Loans Be Utilized; 643 Million Syrian Pounds Granted by Bank in 1982; It Is Necessary To Develop Legal Provisions To Insure Utilization of Bank Loans in Agriculture"]

[Text] The Cooperative Agricultural Bank is one of the oldest banks in our country, with its foundation dating back to the past century. Moreover, it is one of the most widespread banks, with more than 60 branches located in all parts of the country and offering numerous banking and agricultural services, beginning with current accounts and the dispensation of pensions and ending with the distribution of numerous agricultural requirements [necessities], such as seed, fertilizer and pesticides. But the most important and serious service offered by the bank is the agricultural loans which the bank started advancing in 1966, the year in which specialized banking started. We asked Ayman Jamzawi:

[Question] What organizations and circles of each agricultural sector are included in the agricultural loans?

[Answer] Our bank is the only establishment that finances the various forms of the agricultural sector (public, cooperative and private) within the main goals defined in the law establishing the bank and within the framework of the economic and social development plan in order to enhance the agricultural and livestock production. In the public sector, the bank loans include the state farms, the installations controlled by the Ministry of Agriculture and the establishments of an economic nature. These loans also support the projects of the cooperative farmer organizations and the projects belonging to the members of such organizations. In the private sector, the loans include natural and legal-status persons and the other groups and establishments in areas where no farmer organizations are set up or where it is impossible for some individuals to join the farmer organization.

[Question] What are the conditions required in a beneficiary of the bank operations?

[Answer] The loan applicant is required to be an investing farmer, be he an owner, a tenant, an administrator, a beneficiary of the agrarian reform law or of the state-owned lands law or an investor in any other capacity who can prove

his investment to the board of Directors. He must be a citizen of the country. However, Arab citizens investing in agricultural land in the country may also be loaned. Finally, he must be an investor in the area of the bank branch to which he applies for financing his agricultural activity.

[Question] What is the sum of the loan advanced to finance the various forms of the agricultural sector (public, cooperative and private)?

[Answer] There are 3 kinds of loans: Short-term, medium-term and long-term loans. The first type includes loans payable in no more than 1 year and amounting to no more than 40,000 pounds per farmer for summer crops and services and 25,000 pounds for winter crops.

This is inssofar as the private sector is concerned. As for the cooperative sector, the loan is advanced to the members within the limits of the share of each member of the cooperative and regardless of the total sum of the loans for each cooperative, provided that the individual member's loan does not exceed the 2 limits set for the private sector.

As for the cooperative as a legal-status person, for the farmers' association and for the branch union, the loan may go as high as 400,000 Syrian pounds for both the summer and winter crops and services. The same applies to the state farms.

The second type is the medium-term loan which includes the loans payable in a period of no more than 5 years. The third type is the long-term loan which is payable within a period of no more than 10 years.

The sum advanced according to these 2 types of loans may reach up to 20,000 Syrian pounds per farmer and cooperative association member and up to 300,000 Syrian pounds per state farm.

[Question] What is the total value of the loans advanced by the bank last year?

[Answer] The total amount amounted to 643 million pounds, including 22 millions advanced to the public sector, 279 millions to the cooperative sector and 332 millions to the private sector. As for the type of loans, the total sum of the short-term loans amounted to 452 million Syrian pounds, the medium-term loans to 136 millions, and the long-term loans to 41 million Syrian pounds.

On controlling investment of the loans, Taha al-Salah, the bank's director of investment, says:

In accordance with the bank law, issued in 1970, a department was set up to watch investment of the loans. This department's task is the following:

Conduct investigation prior to advancing the loans to make sure of the fitness and economic feasibility of the loans.

Conduct post-loan followup to make certain that the monies and in-kind materials advanced by the bank are used for the agricultural purpose set for them in the contract.

The two abovementioned types of control are conducted under the supervision of a committee formed of the Ministry of Agriculture and the General Federation of Farmers. Violators are referred to the courts in accordance with provisions No 58 and 59 of the bank law.

[Question] What is the number of loans advanced last year and what is their investment rate in agriculture?

[Answer] The number of short-term loans amounted to 19,822 loans, those of medium-term amounted to 3,892 and those of long-term amounted to 1,318 loans. This means that the total number of loans of all types was 24,942 loans. The implementation rate in all of them ranged from 95-97 percent.

[Question] What is the number of those who violated the agricultural investment loans last year and what measures have been taken against them?

[Answer] The number of violators in whose lands the investment rate was below 90 percent amounted to 245 violators and they have been referred to the courts in accordance with the rules. Immediately upon the lapse of 10 days on the date on which a violator is notified of his violation and if he does not appeal, he is referred to the courts and the bank's loan is immediately retrieved by legal means. This means that the bank's right is guaranteed in this case. But the legal procedures seek to prevent violations pertaining to the use of the loans for non-agricultural purposes. Such violations are few anyway, as proven by the previous figures. This is because the fundamental goal is to develop agricultural investment. This is why there is a bill to stiffen the penalties imposed on violators.

[Question] What are the difficulties facing the work and what are the suggestions that can develop the banking service?

[Answer] There are some issues that have to be dealt with. The most important is the problem of the system of agricultural investment prevalent in the main production areas located in the eastern governorates. A plan has been submitted to the Higher Agricultural Council to permit the bank not to finance the new investors (who have replaced the previous feudalism) except within the limits of the land ownership. There is also the need to establish a practical investment formula, such as cooperative associations, to utilize these lands and to take advantage of the big investment benefits.

Moreover, the demarcation, documentation, elimination of public ownership and land improvement operations are below what is planned. Emphasis must be put on ending these operations in the irrigated areas and in the initial settlement areas before anything else because these are the areas qualified for the creation of a real agricultural development. These operations must also be completed so that the landowners may be able to get development loans with their property used as a collateral because this property cannot be presently accepted as a

collateral for the loans by virtue of the fact that it is not recorded in the land registers so that the title to the land may be deposited with the bank as a guarantee for the loan. Moreover, the stability of agricultural ownership has a big impact on developing agricultural production, especially in terms of applying the crop cycles.

There is another problem facing the bank, namely the problem of settling old agricultural debts. Despite the issuance of several decrees to divide the old debts owed by the farmers into installments, the latest such decree being legislative decree No 44 of 1980 which provides for a new period of grace to re-divide the debts and to exempt them from interest and penalties, we still don't expect the indebted to pay the installments and to end the problem. This is because most of the indebted are outside the country and because their guarantors are unable to pay.

[Question] What are the problems that face the control over the loans?

[Answer] The control includes, as we have already pointed out, the advance investigation to make sure of the feasibility of the project and to determine the sums needed for financing it and the post-loan followup to make certain that the loans are used for the purpose for which they are granted.

However, the inadequacy of the legal provisions and of the practical application have caused the post-loan followup to be unable to serve its fundamental purpose, namely use of the loans for [agricultural] development purposes. This is because the bank has to submit the proof that the farmer has used the loan in a sphere other than the agricultural objective for which the loan was granted. Moreover, the judiciary always give the violator assessment of mitigating circumstances. Therefore, the issue must be dealt with legally and the present provisions must be amended so that this control may become beneficial and fruitful and may serve its desired purpose.

8494

CSO: 4404/235



## BRIEFS

EXPORTING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE--Syria is again allowing Lebanese merchants to export agricultural produce to its territory, following a long period during which the Syrian-Lebanese border was closed to such produce, especially citrus and other fruits, for fear they had been purchased in Israel. Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz reports that because of Syria's boycott and the threats it made, Lebanese merchants have reduced their purchases of agricultural produce from Israel. There are those in Israel who think that this will result, among other things, in a drop in fruit and vegetable prices in the domestic market. [Text] [TA210947 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0925 GMT 21 Feb 83]

SITUATION OF SYRIAN JEWRY--Minister Mordekhay Ben-porat says that a certain improvement has occurred in the situation of Syrian Jewry. Persecutions have stopped and the main restriction applied to them is a ban to leave the country. Some 4,000 Jews remain in Syria. Minister Ben-Porat was speaking with our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh. [Text] [TA240535 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 24 Feb 83]

CSO: 4400/230



DRA DELEGATION RETURNS FROM PNC SESSION IN ALGERIA

LD260001 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] Brig Gen Gol Aqa, vice chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium, and the delegation accompanying him returned from Algeria this morning after participating in the 16th session of the Palestine National Council [PNC].

During the PNC he delivered a message to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat from Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council. The message, which was delivered in the presence of other Palestinian leaders, was received with warm feelings and gratitude. On arrival at Kabul Airport, Aqa told the BAKHTAR correspondent that he has a message from Yasir 'Arafat to Babrak Karmal. This message contains warm fraternal greetings as well as 'Arafat's personal gratitude on behalf of the Palestinian people for the DRA's stand concerning the Palestinian people.

In a speech at the PNC, the head of the DRA delegation expressed the people of Afghanistan's support and solidarity for the Palestine Liberation Movement's stands and for the formation of the Palestinian state. He stated that our country maintains a constant position concerning Palestine.

General Gol Aqa added that this was the most important PNC session ever held, as it was convened with unity and solidarity following the aggression launched by the Israeli Zionists and the U.S. imperialists in an effort to eliminate the Palestine Liberation Movement. The PNC showed that this movement is more powerful than at any time since it came into existence. This alone is a crushing blow to imperialism and Zionism.

The delegates who participated in the PNC session unanimously condemned the aggressive actions by Israel and the United States.

CSO: 4665/7

BRIEFS

DRA-USSR ARTILLERY FRIENDSHIP--The DRA-USSR friendship room of the artillery force was opened today at a ceremony by Brig Gen Yasin Sadeqi, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and head of the army's political affairs, to mark the 5th anniversary of the glorious April revolution. [Text] [LD250510 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Feb 83]

CIVIL DEFENSE FOR POWER STATIONS--In accordance with the resolution of the PDPA Central Committee politburo, a civil defense unit was formed at the Department of Fertilizer and Electric Power Stations in Mazar-e Sharif yesterday at a ceremony. At this ceremony (Abdol Samad Qyumi), head of the local organs of the state administration, spoke about the role and value of the creation of civil defense. A relevant source said that at the present time some 760 workers and employees of the Department of Fertilizer and Electric Power Stations in Mazar-e Sharif have joined the civil defense units in these factories. [Text] [LD250510 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Feb 83]

NCO COURSE CANDIDATES--The Education and Training Department of the Ministry of Defense is accepting graduates of 6th, 7th and 8th grades and 9th grade students whose ages should be between 18 and 24, for NCO courses. Those who wish to join the abovementioned courses should come to the Education and Training Department in Dar Ol Aman before 6 March 1983 with their identity cards and educational documents. [Text] [Announcement issued by the Education and Training Department of the Ministry of Defense--date not given] [LD201915 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 19 Feb 83]

CSO: 4665/7

## REDDY COMMENTS ON RAJIV SECRETARIAT APPOINTMENT

Madras THE HINDU in English 3 Feb 83 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Feb. 2

As expected, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi has been appointed one of the general secretaries of the Congress (I) along with Mr. C. M. Stephen, who resigned as Minister of Shipping and Transport.

The working president of the Congress (I), Mr. Kamalapati Tripathi, who announced the two appointments, said they would replace Mr. Vasant Rao Patil and Mr. M. Satyanarayana Rao whose resignations had been accepted by him.

After Mr. Tripathi had taken over as 'working' president, four of the five general secretaries — Mr. Vasant Rao Patil, Mr. Satyanarayana Rao, Mr. G. K. Moopenar and Mr. Chandulal Chandrakar — submitted their resignations. The fifth one, Mrs. Rajendra Kumari Bujpai, who was away in Assam on election work, has so far not sent in her resignation.

A communique issued from Rashtrapathi Bhavan this afternoon, accepting the resignation of Mr. Stephen, stated that Mr. K. Vijayabheskara Reddi shall hold temporary charge of the portfolio of Shipping and Transport. It meant that the Prime Minister was contemplating a few more changes in her Cabinet which would involve a reallocation of the portfolios of some of her colleagues.

It was not indicated by Mr. Tripathi, while announcing the appointment of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and Mr. Stephen, whether he proposed to have three more new general secretaries or intended to retain any from the present team. But it seemed that the party chief, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, was keeping her options open until she

had made some further changes in her Cabinet.

**Senior's guidance:** At one stage, Mrs. Gandhi was thinking of appointing Mr. Rajiv Gandhi as Congress (I) president. But it was felt later on that it would be more appropriate to let him work as one of the general secretaries, under the guidance of a senior leader like Mr. Tripathi, to gain the necessary experience before assuming the presidentship of the party organisation.

The idea is that he should tour the States devoting himself almost entirely to the reactivation of the PCC (I)s to rebuild the party from the grass-roots level and involve the rank and file in the implementation of the 20-point programme. The routine work of the AIACC (I) would be looked after by the other general secretaries in the normal course.

The real test of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's capacity to cope with this challenging assignment will be his ability to extricate himself from the stranglehold of the caucus that he has unwittingly allowed to operate in his name. He will have to first create a reassuring impression that he is not going to make the kind of mistakes that his younger brother made for asserting his authority in similar circumstances.

The Congress (I) Working Committee and the Central Parliamentary Board will also be reconstituted soon to include some new faces, after Mrs. Gandhi has completed the Cabinet changes at the Centre and dispensed with a few more controversial Chief Ministers in the Congress (I)-ruled States. She is also reported to have decided to do away with the practice of any party functionary holding more than one post as far as possible.

**Confusion:** But the present uncertainty about the final shape of the Central Cabinet and the party leadership continues to create some confusion about Mrs. Gandhi's readiness to press forward with the proposed changes to their logical conclusion. If this psychological moment is lost, she will find it extremely difficult to deal firmly with the vested interests in

the wake of mounting dissidence.

As Prime Minister, Mrs. Gandhi has learnt the bitter lesson that it is one thing to tolerate incompetence and ignore corruption at times, but another thing to defend the indolent and shield the disolute under the mistaken notion that an attack on her minions was, indeed, an attack on her own leadership that must be met resolutely, even if it meant disregarding the inadequacies or condoning the infractions of some of her colleagues.

Similarly, as party president, she has realised that an amorphous organisation like the Congress (I) cannot be run by letting the local bosses play havoc by misusing governmental power for their personal benefit. It is necessary for her to make doubly certain that the new experiment of having a working party president, and her own son serving as one of his general secretaries, under her over-all supervision would work well without creating new problems.

**Equal status for all:** Mr. Tripathi told newsmen today that all the general secretaries of the party would have equal status. He was responding to a question whether Mr. Rajiv Gandhi would have a higher status than the other general secretaries, writes Our New Delhi Special Correspondent.

Asked whether there would be a code of discipline to regulate the functions of the general secretaries, he said this could be looked into later.

**Telegram from Antulay:** Mr. Tripathi said he had received a telegram from the former Maharashtra Chief Minister, Mr. A. R. Antulay, complaining about the procedure adopted for the election of the new Congress (I) leader in the State Assembly in Bombay on Monday.

He would reply to Mr. Antulay after he had received a report from the two AICC (I) observers, Mr. P. Shiv Shanker and Mr. Buta Singh, who conducted the Bombay meeting.

CSO: 4600/1690

## BRIEFS

OIL EXPORT PLANS--India proposed to export five million tonnes of Bombay High crude oil this year, reports UNI. The first contract for swapping one million tonnes of Bombay crude oil for Arab light crude has been signed by the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), its chairman A J A Tauro told UNI in Delhi on Friday. He said the agreement with the Shell International signed this week was favourable to India as IOC would also be getting premium in the form of foreign exchange for every tonne of oil swapped. The low sulphur crude oil produced by Bombay High is in great demand in the international market. The contract was awarded to the Shell following a global tender floated by IOC, which proposed to invite bids for swapping more high crude very soon. Like last year, the country would be exporting five million tonnes of Bombay crude oil this year to import Arab light and other petroleum products. Because of increased production of oil from Bombay High, amounting to about 16 million tonnes this year, the country's refineries would be able to process about 11 million tonnes of crude as against eight million tonnes processed last year. Last year's crude oil production from Bombay High was 12 million tonnes. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 29 Jan 83 p 5]

PACT WITH IRAN--India and Iran have signed a protocol on exchange of films, photographs, students and teachers, reports UNI. It was signed recently in Teheran by External Affairs Secretary Natwar Singh and Iranian deputy Commerce Minister Hedayat Zade. The two sides also decided to have an informal special joint working group to examine policies and institutional measures to encourage commercial exchanges and find solutions to trade and payment problems. In this connection it was agreed to provide multi-entry business visas. Iran will instruct its consulates in Bombay and Hyderabad to issue visas on the recommendation of local authorities and business organisations. An official spokesman told newsmen that Mr Natwar Singh had had discussions with Iranian President S A Khamieni, Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Vellayati and three other Ministers in the foreign ministry. He said Iran appreciated India's contribution towards consolidating the unity of the non-aligned movement and initiatives it was taking to make seventh summit a success. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 29 Jan 83 p 5]

ASYLUM FOR LALDenga--Aizawl, Feb 2--The British Home Office has conceded the outlawed Mizo National Front leader, Mr Laldenga's request to grant him political asylum in the United Kingdom, according to reports available here. The 56-year-old MNF leader, who was on a voluntary exile after the breakdown of six-year-long peace parleys early last year, has been living in a suburb of London since April last.--UNI [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 3 Feb 83 p 9]

NAGA MINISTRY EXPANDED--Kohima, Feb 2--With the induction of nine new Ministers today, the strength of the Jamir Ministry in Nagaland has risen to 23. The new Ministers were sworn in this morning at Raj Bhavan by the Governor, Mr S.M.K. Burney. Of the new entrants, three are of Cabinet rank and six Ministers of State. They are Mr N.I. Jamir, Mr Visadel Sakhrie, Mr Rothrang Santham (all Cabinet) and Mr Kohoto Sema, Mr Puse, Mr Anwar Hussain, Mr Noklem Konyok, Mr Shikiho Sema and Mr Banjak Phom (Ministers of State). For the first time in Nagaland's history a non-Naga (Mr Hussain) has been appointed a Minister. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 3 Feb 83 p 9]

LOK DAL-K, JANATA--New Delhi, January 27 (UNI): The anti-Charan Singh faction of the Lok Dal, comprising mostly erstwhile Lohia socialists, today merged with the Janata Party to "recreate the spirit of 1977." At a joint press conference, the Janata president, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, and the Lok Dal (K) chief, Mr. Karpoori Thakur, expressed the hope that "this decision will trigger off a process that will enable all parties and groups and individuals to come together to present the country with an instrument of struggle for socio-economic transformation." In reply to a question, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said even Mr. Charan Singh and Mr. Raj Narain who along with other erstwhile Socialists were instrumental in the disintegration of the Janata party, could now return to its fold. In a joint statement, Mr. Chandra Shekhar and Mr. Karpoori Thakur said they hoped their decision would trigger a process for all parties and groups and individuals to come together and present the country with an instrument of struggle for socio-economic transformation. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 28 Jan 83 p 1]

NEW GOAN PARTY--Panaji, January 27: The All Goans Party was officially launched yesterday. It will aim at giving Goans a "happier and better tomorrow." If voted to power, the party whose president is Dr. John Carvalho, a freedom-fighter, will appoint an ombudsman to fight corruption, work for immediate statehood, review and old system of comunidades and enact a new Goa police act. It will also set up a town planning authority and a Goa state university. The party meeting yesterday adopted four resolutions, calling for a complete overhaul of the police force, a land survey, restoration of the education system that prevailed before the introduction of the ten plus two plus three system and the immediate appointment of a lieutenant governor. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 28 Jan 83 p 14]

CSO: 4600/1696



# FRANCE BLASTED AS 'DUAL REPRESENTATIVE OF BOTH SUPERPOWERS'

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 16 Feb 83 p 1

[Article by Ali Zulfaqari]

[Text]

The socialist government of Mitterand, the dual representative of both superpowers, is doing its best to prop up the socialist Ba'athist regime of Iraq, a double agent of the U.S. and the Soviet Union. The Ba'athists of Iraq have proved to be the fitting counterpart of the French socialists who in turn serve as the European buffer-and brokers- between the rival blocks.

It was inevitable that France should support Saddam, for he guarantees not only the short and long-term interests of France but that of all superpowers, who see their destinies and their dominance over the Persian Gulf and the Middle East in general linked with that of Saddam.

But Saddam's unenviable condition after more than two years of war has placed France and reactionary Arab rulers under undesirable economic pressures. France has already supplied more than \$4 billion worth of arms to Saddam graciously balanced by the Saudis through a loan of \$2 billion paid to France December last year. Nevertheless while Saudis have sunk more than \$30 billion in Saddam's war, the French have been left with more than \$1.7 billion of perilous credits to the Ba'athist Iraq. The French, like the Saudis, know that whatever regime succeeds the Ba'athists, the Iraqi Moslems will never permit pay loans which have served to bring disaster for two Moslem nations. Therefore for the French and the Saudis Saddam signifies the embodiment of their bleak hopes.

Saddam's French connection and Saudi support may allow him and his allies and masters some passing consolation but it will hardly ensure his

survival Cheysson's recent visits to Syria to persuade opening of Iraq's trans-Syrian pipeline are no more than an exercise in political despair as France tries to counterbalance its arms supplies to Iraq and attempts to forge a deal out of a painful dilemma. Since Saudi loans are only a temporary sedative which will turn into painful burdens in case of Saddam's fall.

Ironically, France like Saddam's Arab allies, is forced to invest in a vanishing regime for the hope of recovering its past investments and ensuring the hopes of future political and economic returns.

Unfortunately for France and its allies, the superpowers, the march of time has proved that Saddam's chances of survival have steadily evaporated with time. The political gamblers may nevertheless be ready to gamble themselves into bankruptcy and that is what France is doing right now. The disastrous inertia of persisting on the wrong side of history has overtaken all the unfortunate allies and masters of Saddam. They have no alternative except to continue the gamble and keep sinking their funds in a dying concern.

But this is the logic and the sorry end of all the enemies of God and of Islam. The nature of their evil systems prevents early caution. When the Divine vortex of destruction is set into revolution, the unrighteous are the first to plunge headlong into it to reverse the movement of history. They do not know that the mighty hand of God cannot be resisted and their investments to thwart the advance of this Divine Revolution will not bear any profits. They will continue to drown their resources to accelerate their own disaster, and repentance and remorse will come only too late with defeat and death:

"The unbelievers expend their wealth to bar from God's way, and yet they will spend it till they are overtaken by anguish and remorse and then they shall be routed, and the unbelievers will be driven into the Hell. They are the final losers." (VIII,36)



# PRESS EXCORIATES FRANCE AS ALLY OF IRAQ

## Pro-Zionism Charged

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 15 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] TEHRAN, Feb 14 (IRNA)--In another commentary on Paris-Baghdad relations, "Sobhe Azadegan" said that Mitterrand is stepping up efforts to strengthen France's foothold in Africa and the Middle East, in continuation of its ancient colonialistic policies. Excerpts:

"France's efforts in the Middle East and its interference in Iraq's war against Iran, obviously in the interest of Saddam's government, betrays its colonialist objectives. The despatching of the so-called peace-keeping forces to Lebanon within the framework of the U S. schemes, and improvement of its relations with the Zionist regime and Egypt are among France's diplomatic offensive in the region.

"In his visit to Morocco, and his talks with King Hassan, the topic of the Sahara was brought up, as well as a request by King Hassan for purchasing three nuclear reactor plants from France. If such plans ever materialize, France will indisputably be recognized as one of the parties responsible for fomenting agitation in the region as well as throughout the globe.

"The presence in the region of the representative of French diplomacy and his visit to Baghdad indicates that in order to protect oil wells in Saudi Arabia, the United States would not step forth to protect Saddam directly with the presence of its own green berets. Why? Because it is already aware of the anger of the Muslim-peoples in the region. Therefore the west and especially the United States exploit a Socialist footman in order to safeguard the interests of world capitalism, especially because this footman is fully conversant with the language between the master and the servant.

"On the other hand Cheysson is a Socialist, and as such can share a common slogan with Saddam. On other hand western bankers, industrialists and business magnates have endorsed his leadership in the French diplomacy.

"The Socialists in France ... desire to turn Africa and the Middle East into one ready-made loaf for the Zionist to bite but this time they will not succeed. Why? Because this is really an undigestible morsel of bare bones likely to suffocate avid devourers.

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 17 Feb 83 p 2

[Editorial: "French Political Maneuvers"]

[Text]

**According to reports, Charles Hernu, the French defense minister while expressing his fears about the imminent victory of the Islamic forces of Iran, said that if the present Iran-Iraq war ends, French arms exports will drop by 50 percent. The French minister also said that Iran's victory in the war will destabilize the region.**

**Claude Cheysson, the French minister of external affairs before his departure for Syria, Jordan and Iraq, said that Paris is apprehensive of an Iranian victory in the war and some regional countries are also alarmed by the effects of the Islamic Revolution.**

**Regarding the statements of Hernu and Cheysson, it is necessary to look into the past. Two years ago, when Mitterrands' Socialist Party came to power in France, they promised to tackle French economic problems. However, the Socialist government not only failed in fulfilling its promise, but their so called Socialist policies resulted in a general recession. One of the negative signs of the Socialist policies has been France's deficit payments. According to 'Le Figaro's' report of October 18, 1982, the French payments deficit in September 1982 amounted to 12 billion francs.**

**The French colonial past has been a major reason for its economic dependence on Iraq. An article in Le Monde of February 4, 1983, commented thus: "Iraq has been France's foremost and leading client in the Middle East and contributed significantly for the French economy. Iraq's purchase of French arms in 1981 and 1982 amounted to 28 billion francs, also Iraq's purchase of other products was close to this figure. Iraq and Saudi Arabia together receive between 70 to 80 percent of the total French arms exports which in turn keeps 1 million Frenchmen employed."**

**Le Figaro, while pointing out Iraq's critical foreign exchange reserves situation added that if Iraq stops paying its bills then it must pay at least 15 billion**

francs to the French Foreign Trade Insurance Company.

Hence, the French government's insurance for products exported to Iraq is a heavy burden on French tax payers. Because of this and the trend of the victories of the Islamic forces, Iraq's inability to honor its debts, and certain fall of Saddam, has made the French private sector unprepared to do business with Iraq without the French government's guarantee.

It becomes apparent that the stability desired by the French defense minister concerns Iraqi oil exports to France. Also peace, the French way means a cease-fire that can constantly be violated.

What they desire is a state of no war, no peace, in order to enable the French military industrial complexes to continue plundering Iraq's resources.

What is notable here is the Socialist government's attitude in wasting French resources. In conditions when France is having a deficit payments crisis 15 billion francs has been extended as a guarantee to the exporters of French products that includes weapons, to Iraq. Iraq making good its debts is uncertain. According to the Sunday Times report of February 6, despite Iraq's heavy losses in the war and its immense financial wars, Mitterrand has ordered speeding deliveries of arms to Iraq in order to check Saddam's defeat.

Even though Saddam's fall will have adverse effects on U.S. interests. America is not prepared to openly support him because his fall will further discredit the west. Nevertheless, France has encouraged Fahd, Jordan's Hussein and Mubarak to go to Saddam's aid.

During his recent tour of France, Tareq Aziz sought for a temporary solution to Iraq's economic problems. He proposed using Saudi oil against the French arms supply to which the French government has agreed.

What should be answered is the causes of Cheysson's recent visits to Oman, Baghdad and Damascus.

According to western sources even Saudi Arabia is unwilling to export 1 million barrels of oil daily on

*Iraq's behalf. This amounts to 1 billion dollar in aid to Iraq, every month. Here, France must put the heavy burden of the risky French arms exports to Iraq, on French shoulders. Thus, Saddam's ouster will result in the unemployment of millions of Frenchmen and billions of francs in losses to its economy.*

France - Mitterand's Arsenal for Ba'athists

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 19 Feb 83 p 2

[Editorial by S. Moadab: "France on the Frontline"]

[Text]

*The French minister of external relations is in Moscow following his short visit to the Syrian capital. Claude Cheysson is the newest practitioner of shuttle diplomacy. Even though his mission is similar to that of the intrigues of Henry Kissinger in Middle Eastern affairs, Cheysson seems neither as intelligent nor as skillful as the "Dear Henry" of Anwar Sadat.*

*The strongman of Quai d'Orsay in Paris seems to be as great a novice in politics as his president who is bent on betraying all the principles of socialism. Unlike Olof Palme in Sweden, whose socialist policy has enhanced Stockholm's prestige, Mitterrand's accession to power has weakened the respect the world had for France and the French people had for socialism.*

*This failure of Francois Mitterrand has given an ideal pretext to the rightists and Gaullists on the one hand and to the Communist Party of George Marche on the other. Even though Marche has a few comrades in Mitterrand's cabinet he is by no means happy with the drastic failure he and his socialist friends suffered in the municipal elections because of the policy of vacillation earmarking the present socialist rule in France.*

*President Mitterrand has not been able to realize the promises he had made during his campaign. Unemployment has been rising since he took power. The French franc has been falling before the U.S. dollar and German mark. To his surprise the trade union's have been a problem for him because of the continuous rise of already high prices.*

*In foreign policy matters the first French socialist president has acted very unexpectedly. Paris has been having an extended honeymoon with Tel Aviv and Mitterrand remains the first Western European head of state to have landed in occupied Palestine. The man who once was attacking the U.S. and its policies has paid*

several visits to Ronald Reagan and in many parts of the world he is acting as point man for the White House.

In Chad, hand in hand with Reagan, he has been conspiring against Africa. In Lebanon, French troops are quite conspicuous. In his nuclear policy, unlike General de Gaulle and ~~in president~~ Giscard d'Estaing, Mitterrand seems eager to integrate French nuclear forces with NATO. Paris supports the stationing of Pershing missiles in West Germany.

In the Middle East, the Socialist Party which condemned the delivery of French jet fighters to Baghdad by the government of Raymond Barre has at its head a man who has turned France into the military arsenal for the Ba'athist forces.

Concerning French relations with the Islamic Republic we go back into history and narrate a sentence from the great French scientist la Grange. At midday of May 8, 1794 in Revolution Square, Paris the French chemist Antoine Laurent de Lavoisier was decapitated. La Grange said "To have again a head for the decapitation of which a few seconds was enough, at least one hundred years is needed."

We know that in the presidential palace in Paris Mitterrand's entourage disagrees with his unrealistic policy towards Iran. We know also that billions of Arab petrodollars are being absorbed by French capitalists every year. Very recently Paris signed an agreement worth \$2 billion with Baghdad. This reminds us of the travels made to Iran by the Gaullist premier Jacques Chirac. Returning from one of those journeys stepping out of the plane at Orly Airport he said he had signed so many trade agreements with the imperial government of Iran that "My suitcase is very heavy."

We believe that the sweet dreams entertained by Mitterrand in signing agreements with the Baghdad government cannot be any lofter than those formerly held by his present opponent Jacques Chirac.

It is said that realities often hide themselves. Not many men have the vision to see realities when they are in power. But as every Frenchman knows, the special characteristic of man is that once the realities reveal themselves only blind men ignore them.

In the beginning of this column we said Claude Cheysson is visiting Moscow. Apparently he is there to discuss nuclear disarmament. But the fact is otherwise. Cheysson had been in Damascus before going to Moscow. In the Syrian capital he tried to convince Hafez Assad to let Iraqi oil flow again across Syrian territory. According to the information we have from the Syrian capital Cheysson is disappointed. Of course we could expect otherwise from the Syrian government. In fact we

*had signs of Saudi pressure upon Damascus when recently high officials from Syria exchanged views with the officials of the Islamic Republic.*

*Cheyssson is now in Moscow to convince the Russians to exert pressures upon Syria to give concessions to the Saudis in helping Saddam.*

*All these political activities headed by France remind us of the attempts made to save the shah when he was in his last days. France, by adopting an unrealistic policy in the Middle East, has now moved to the frontline of unfriendly countries in the imposed war against the Islamic Republic. Let us wait and see what compensation Paris will have to pay for this new attitude.*

CSO: 4600/368



# FRENCH SOCIALISTS LAMBASTED FOR AIDING BA'ATHISTS

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 12 Feb 83 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] According to wire reports from the war fronts, the valiant forces of Islam are advancing over the enemy despite its highly sophisticated arms. Our soldiers are moving to silence the enemy's long range guns that constantly shell residential areas and show the enemy that the Islamic Republic of Iran is capable of extracting its rights and nothing, not even the mine fields and the sophisticated electronic gadgets can block the realization of its goals.

It appears that the enemy has been given sufficient time between the Moharram and Wal Fajr operations to resolve the situation. Presently, there are signs of doubt and apprehension amongst the supporters of the Ba'athist regime stemming from a gradual awareness on the part of the regional countries with regard to undeniable realities. These countries are now ready to accept the new conditions, but there are still some apprehensions due to the lies of the superpowers who see their interests in the continuation of the war; that is, they desire a suitable market for their weapons and also a testing ground for their new and deadlier arms.

Here, France's role is more prominent than others, because the French socialists believe that their political destiny depends on the outcome of the Iraqi imposed war on the Islamic Republic of Iran. Thus, they are hurriedly despatching armaments to Baghdad.

This is an accepted fact and France knows well that, considering the present situation in the war fronts, there is not the slightest chance for the continuation of the Ba'athist regime in Baghdad.

Under such conditions, Charles Hanan, the French minister of war, while confirming Iraq's incapability to continue in the present war, added that the victory of the Islamic Republic of Iran will result in the instability of the region.

It is clear that this childish analysis runs contrary to existing realities; and this fact is the point upon which global imperialism's political propaganda dwells for sustaining and expanding its political and economic hegemony in the region. In other words, it is France's desire to continue and expand the war.

The comments of the French Minister of war can also be interpreted to mean that the prevalent regional stability will be destabilized by the victory of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is aimed at crushing the aggressor and putting an end to the war; whereas all the regional countries, either privately or officially, consider Iraq as the aggressor and desire an end to the war. They know very well that the present uncertain conditions will result in inevitable incidents, the scope of which cannot be foreseen at the moment.

This means that the efforts of the French Socialists for the prolongation of the war are not only not aimed at protecting the regional regimes, but on the contrary, by involving more regional countries in the war, France will have a wider market for its arms sales. Otherwise, how can the defeat of the aggressor and an end to the war destabilize the region? Global imperialism, especially France and the US, try to create a state of chaos and instability in the regional countries so as to have a pretext for the intervention of their rapid deployment forces in the Persian Gulf. All the present events reveal that the US and France have begun extensive efforts to deviate the attention of the regional countries from facts and realities. However, these countries know that the US and France have been pursuing a policy of instability in the region and are unable to fulfil their promises to protect the regional regimes. The question is, how effective was the US guarantee in preserving the shah's regime in Iran? Moreover, what will be the effect of the arming of Baghdad by France and the US on Saddam's destiny? The regional countries should ask Washington to what extent its guarantees for preserving the security of their regimes can be trusted. The regional nations can easily see that Saddam's regime is nearing its doom and they should be capable of establishing friendly relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, after Saddam's fall. Thus, the future destiny of the Persian Gulf's littoral states depends on their maintaining healthy ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran. The regional states should therefore note objectively regional conditions and shelving all apprehensions, they should thwart the designs of the war mongers and play their own roles in bringing about peace and stability in the region. Otherwise, how can the littoral states have peace and security amidst war and bloodshed?

In a nutshell, the Wal Fajr operation is a major and decisive event in the history of the 29 month-old imposed war. Because, if the regional countries sever their relations with Baghdad, the Islamic Republic of Iran will overlook their past relations with it. The Islamic Republic of Iran has practically proven that it honors its promises.

The Islamic Republic of Iran will do everything in its capacity to maintain regional peace and to guarantee the security of the littoral real countries against all alien threats and dangers. However, the war mongers should note that Islamic Iran can extract its rights amidst blood and fire.



'AFFILIATES' OF TUDEH PARTY ARRESTED

GF211854 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Excerpt] As we reminded you in our past programs, the Tudeh Party elements are starting the second phase of eradication of their opposition in Iran. The first phase which concentrated on the destruction of the nationalists and their serious opposition has been completed and currently the second phase, the [character] assassination of the members of the Hojjatiyeh group and Tudeh Party opposition in administrative organizations and high-ranking government clergymen is underway.

Asadollah Lajvarid announced yesterday in this connection that a number of members of Marxist and communist groups have been arrested in the past few days. He also claimed that some Mojahedin-e Khalq members are among the arrested individuals. In his speech yesterday, Lajvardi did not indicate the number of those arrested. However, according to reports from our correspondents, those arrested are people affiliated with Tudeh Party members whose names had fallen in the hands of the members of the Hojjatiyeh group.

Our correspondent had earlier reported that a namelist of clergymen, clerical students and government employees affiliated with the Tudeh Party had fallen in the hands of the Hojjatiyeh group by unknown means and that the group intends to [words indistinct] before the Tudeh Party carries the second phase of its activities. [Words indistinct] the party of those who have had affiliation with the Tudeh Party since the regime of Khomeyni assumed power had been estimated at around 400, but the number is now three times that.

Our dear listeners should remember that 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign minister of the regime, in an interview with a Syrian paper some days ago announced that the reason for the arrest of Tudeh Party members and leaders were their plots against the regime of the Islamic Republic. [Passage citing French weekly LE POINT on the same subject omitted.]

CSO: 4640/127

'PRAVDA' DENOUNCES TUDEH ARRESTS, SAYS CHARGES ARE 'GROUNDLESS, SLANDEROUS'

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 20 Feb 83 p 1

[Text]

MOSCOW (AP) - The Soviet Union on Friday accused Iran of damaging relations with the Kremlin by arresting members of the Soviet-leaning Tudeh Party on "groundless and slanderous" charges.

The official news agency Tass, in a summary of what it said was an editorial in Saturday editions of the Communist party daily Pravda, said the arrests harmed Iran-Soviet relations.

It was "surprising" that the Tudeh leaders had been arrested at a time when Iran faced "grave" economic crisis, "a threat of military invasion by the U.S." and a war with Iraq, Tass quoted Pravda as saying.

The agency said the Tudeh members arrest included Nuredin Kianuri, first secretary of the party's central committee.

It did not say how many others were arrested or detail charges against them, but noted that "the groundless and slanderous nature of the accusations . . . as well as of the attacks on Soviet policy is so obvious that they need not to be refuted."

Tass quoted Pravda as alleging that Iran was under threat of U.S. invasion because of "a strong naval force" maintained by the Americans near the Persian Gulf.

The Soviet agency said the arrests indicated that "reactionary conservative forces have be-

come more active in Iran" and went on to assert that conservative, rightwing groups "are gaining strength."

"... the pro-western capitalistic groups are becoming increasingly confident," Tass quoted Pravda as saying.

The agency said the editorial reminded Iranians that the Tudeh Party had helped in the struggle against "the Shah's despotic regime" and also recalled unspecified Soviet aid "to help Iran alleviate the damage done to it by the U.S. blockade."

"... the anti-Soviet campaign unleashed in Tehran . . . is only clouding the relations between our countries and peoples and harming first and foremost the interests of Iran itself", Tass said.

**TEHRAN TIMES COMMENTS**

Pravda in its accusation has forgotten that the members of the Tudeh Party are Iranian citizens and not the citizens of the Soviet Union. Moreover to what extent the charges against the arrested Tudeh Party members are "groundless and slanderous" will have to be determined by an Iranian court of law and not a foreign newspaper. Furthermore, the Pravda may kindly take note that there are not "special times" for arresting spies and forgers, nor the laws of the Islamic Republic are subservient to any economic crises or external threats that Pravda

has hinted about.

The Islamic Republic was born under the shadow of internal and external threats and as long as it sticks to the path of true Islam, it will continue to confront its enemies' hostilities. This does not mean that all laws and regulations have to be passed for pleasing friends and assuaging enemies.

The "right & left" formula for explaining political attitudes does not hold in Islamic Iran. Here the criterion is "Neither the Left Nor the Right Nor the Center", and "Neither the East Nor the West" but the "Straight Path" as pointed out by the Qoran. The Tudeh (masses) Party had nothing common with

the Moslem masses of Iran except its name and Moscow knows better whom it has helped and served and for what reasons. The Iranians consider it a Russian "miracle" and not an Iranian phenomenon.

Lastly, if Pravda thinks that the "interests" of Islamic Iran lie in pleasing the East and the West even to the extent of showing calculated leniency with spies and forgers, the people of Iran are better off without such blessings. No propaganda could harm the relations between Iran and Soviet Union if the Soviet Union did not follow policies of aggression as in Afghanistan, an Islamic country.

CSO: 4600/381

## IRAN

### TEHRAN SAID TO BE PLAYING ITS LAST CARD

Paris LIBERATION in French 8 Feb 83 p 2

[Article by Carlos de Sa Rego: "Iranian Offensive Against Iraq: Tehran Is Gambling All"]

[Text] Iran has decided to end a very ruinous war which is bogging down. Yesterday, Tehran's forces invaded Iraq, unleashing hundreds of thousands of "martyrs" on the assault of Saddam Hussein's government. They have one month to reach their objective--the city of Al Ammarah, the key to Baghdad.

Iranian forces crossed the border with Iraq last Sunday night in the Faqqah region on the south front. This new offensive of Ayatollah Khomeyni's troops, named "Fajr" (Dawn) is the third attempt in less than a year to "destroy the Aflakist government of Iraq, supported by the governments of the East and the West and their European lackeys." Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi Rafsanjani, Khomeyni's representative on the Higher Iranian Defense Council, left no doubt about the importance of the new offensive. "These operations will be decisive and the last," he stated on 7 February 1983 to the Majlis (parliament). When the offensive was launched, these remarks were confirmed by the presence in the command post of high-ranking dignitaries of the Islamic Republic, such as Prime Minister Mir Hosein Musavi-Khamenei; Musavi Ardabili, presiding judge of the Supreme Court of Appeals; Mohsen Reza'i, the commander of the Guardians of the Revolution, the commander of the army and several religious leaders.

Several signs seem to indicate that this time Iran will gamble everything. In the Iranian government, supporters and opponents of a compromise solution with Iraq today agree on one point: it is no longer possible to continue a war which is bogging down. It is increasingly difficult to recruit new soldiers and economic life has been so disrupted that, 2 weeks ago in a speech to bazaar merchants, Ayatollah Khomeyni himself acknowledged that the conflict was very

ruinous. The guide of the revolution estimated that the war cost 600 million tomans a day (nearly 450 million revalued francs). The government, faced with internal division, had to clean the abscess.

As usual, Tehran's terminology for its offensive gives valuable information about its objectives. "Fajr" is the term for the entire first period of Islam until the conquest of Mecca by the Prophet--it opens the way to the great conquests by the Moslem army. In Iran "Fajr" also means the 10 days between Khomeyni's departure from Neaufle-le-Chateau on 1 February 1979 and the victory of the Islamic revolution on 11 February 1979--the end of one period and the beginning of great victories. The command post for the Dawn offensive was named Khatim al-Anbiya' (the last of the prophets). Iran has decided to end its war with Iraq.

It is not astonishing that the Iranians prepared their offensive with the utmost care. For 3 months, materiel and recruits have been dispatched to the Faqqah region. Thus, the Iranian forces could count on 150,000 pasdars and young recruits from the "people's mobilization". In the past 3 weeks, the government evacuated the country's hospitals, a sign of the imminent intensification of the war. The new offensive, scheduled to coincide exactly with the beginning of "Fajr" on 1 February, had to be delayed because six principal operational commanders of the Guardians of the Revolution were killed by an Iraqi shell a week ago.

People have wondered a great deal why Iranian strategists chose a battle tactic resulting in high fatalities. Why use these human waves, launched to assault the Iraqi tanks, when they die by the tens of thousands on mine fields crying "Allah-o-Akhbar"? The answer is simple: after 4 years of revolution, the Iranian army is almost reduced to its infantry. The purges of pilots, army officers and noncommissioned officers as well as the difficulty in procuring offensive weapons from the East or West have made most of the military equipment almost unusable. Iran reportedly has no more than 10 operational F-14 planes, about 50 F-4's and F-5's, used only defensively. The motorized forces have only a limited capability. Iranian strategists thus were forced to adopt the tactic of great human waves which requires that several hundred thousand soldiers be grouped in one place and be given intensive psychological preparation. The soldiers of the Dawn offensive have spent recent days confined to their camps, praying constantly. In the six minutes before the attack, those preparing themselves for martyrdom engaged in self-flagellation.

Will this tactic which immobilizes the Iraqis on the ground be decisive for the Dawn offensive? This time the stakes are very high: Iran directly threatens the city of Al Ammarah, which plays the same

strategic role for Iraq that Dezful plays for Iran. It is an essential highway junction on the Baghdad-Bassorah road. If Iran captures it, the Iraqi capital would be cut off from its port and especially from Kuwait, a main source of provisioning for Saddam Hussein's government. According to some military experts, the fall of Al Ammarah would put Baghdad in a hopeless position. The urgency of the Iranian operation is increased because the entire region is swampy and the rainy season will begin in less than a month. It will no longer be passable as of March. Thus, the Iranians have a month to succeed. Everything depends on the Iraqi army's ability to resist. If the latter collapses, a new era may begin in the Middle East. On the other hand, an Iranian defeat will have a boomerang effect on the Islamic government which will have the utmost difficulty staying united.

Meanwhile, the Iranians have announced that their troops advanced about 10 km into Iraqi territory (Al Ammarah is located about 60 km from the border) and that one enemy motorized battalion and two infantry battalions had been wiped out. Tehran's newspaper, KAYHAN, announced that the offensive had already achieved 70 percent of its objectives. Iranian troops reportedly conquered 250 square km, the Iranian border posts of Soubleh, Rachidieh and Safarieh and the Iraqi border posts of Karameh, Vahab and Safarieh. Baghdad mentioned the "total destruction" of the first wave of the Iranian assault and the destruction of two enemy infantry divisions and an armored battalion in the Missan sector (facing Faqqah on the Iraqi side). Saddam Hussein is the last defense against the Islamic wave of Khomeyni in the Middle East. Will this defense be breached at Faqqah?

#### Two Years of a Faraway War

1980

23 September 1980: Iraqi forces invaded Iran and the two air forces attacked each other's petroleum installations and military and economic targets.

24 October 1980: Iraq announced the occupation of Khorramshahr; the refinery of Abadan was destroyed but the town remained in Iranian control.

25 December 1980: Saddam Hussein announced the opening of a third front in the Iranian Kurdistan.

1981

September 1981: Throughout September, Iran increased its offensives on the city of Dezful and Mandali, a key position threatening



Baghdad. Iraq began air raids on the Iranian petroleum terminal of Kharg and on ships sailing in Iranian waters.

27 September 1981: Iranian offensive in Khuzestan. Iranian troops broke the vice around Abadan.

29 November 1981: The new offensive of Iranian forces liberated Bostan.

1982

22 March 1982: Iranian troops began their largest offensive to date. The al-Fath al-Mubin (Obvious victory) ended on 28 March 1982 after a breakthrough of more than 50 km. More than 2,000 square km were retaken during this offensive and approximately 75,000 soldiers were killed or wounded.

30 March 1982: Saddam Hussein admitted his defeat by appealing to his troops "not to be overcome with bitterness because of the change in our defensive lines".

29 April 1982: A new Iranian offensive called "Operation Jerusalem" was launched toward Khorramshahr.

22 May 1982: The Iranians initiated the final phase of "Operation Jerusalem" with a two-prong attack on two of the farthest points of the front--in the south, in the Khorramshahr region, and 100 km to the north in the Kouchk sector.

24 May 1982: Iranian troops liberated Khorramshahr.

10 June 1982: Iraq called a ceasefire.

30 June 1982: Baghdad said all its troops had left Iran.

13 July 1982: The UN Security Council unanimously approved a resolution calling for a ceasefire; it was rejected by Iran. That same evening, Iranian troops began the offensive announced several days earlier by Tehran.



Key:

1. Arabs in Iran
2. Shiites in Iraq
3. Contested Zone

9479

CSO: 4619/35



COLLAPSE OF BAGHDAD REGIME CONSIDERED INEVITABLE

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 21 Feb 83 p 2

[Text]

TEHRAN, (IRNA)— The Persian Daily "Sobhe Azadegan" said in its editorial here Wednesday that despite foreign aids to Baghdad the viability of ruling government in Iraq is already beside the question in the face of the increasing opposition by the Moslem people of Iraq and Iran's determination to continue with the war. Excerpts:

"On January 28, the Zionist regime published its support for the Ba'athists (in Iraq) and said that 'this is not the first time that a government such as that of Iran has had designs on its neighboring government and cried out slogans demanding the destruction of Israel.'

"Lately, the imperialist U.S. government published an official communique declaring that it is against any occupation of lands by force.

"In a fit of amnesia, attack the U.S. government has forgotten that during the past two years, it has endorsed quite unreservedly the occupation of parts of Iranian territory by the invading Iraqi troops, and has even provided a fleet of 90 helicopters to the Iraqi regime simultaneously disseminating their 'hard-line' policy of not having any part in this war. Meanwhile, new personages in the Kremlin declared in their reviews that in order to penetrate into the Iraqi territory, the Islamic Republic has brought 'bourgeois forces' into the battle fields, harshly criticizing and accusing U.S. imperialism and Zionism as the major factors behind this fratricidal' conflict. The very 'concerned' Soviets are urging the Iraqis to stop themselves from being seasoned by the American imperialists into prolonging the war, when the whole world known that the French are only second to the USSR in supplying Iraq with arms!

"Such comments are uttered in the face of Iraq's failure to cope up with its daily problems in spite of insurmountable aids it receives from

abroad... Just recently Saddam applied for another \$7 billion in loans from the Saudis, and is receiving fresh hauls of weapons every day...

"That propaganda campaigns, or aids to the ruling regime in Baghdad may warrant Saddam's continuous rule is a notion unsubstantiated by the results of the common global camp of counterrevolution, regardless of how great it may incline towards U.S. favor.

"The ever-increasing opposition by the Iraqi people and the solidarity of the Iraqi Moslems and Iran's determination to go on with the war until it has attained its legitimate demands, are among the developments which are stumbling blocks capable of precipitating the eventual fall of Baghdad's potentates."

CSO: 4600/375

IRAN CLANDESTINE CITES MKO STATEMENT ON EXECUTIONS

GF011323 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] According to a report by the Free Voice of Iran correspondent in France, the bureau of the Mojahidin-e Khalq Organization [MKO] in France, has announced in a statement that executions of political prisoners in Tehran and the provinces have increased. According to the reports received, the regime of Khomeyni intends to hand over hundreds more political prisoners in firing squads in the near future.

The MKO statement adds that at 0900 on Thursday, 24 February, a political prisoner in the Farhand Prison of Rasht was executed by the guardsmen of Khomeyni. The prisoner, named Mohammad Purebrahim, was the brother of 'Ali Purebrahim, who was killed during a suicidal attempt on the life of the Ehsanbaksh representative of Khomeyni in Gilan. To avenge this death, Khomeyni's regime executed his brother Mohammad Purebrahim.

Listeners of Free Voice of Iran will recollect that last week 70 persons, including a lecturer at Yehran University, Dr Farzad Biglar were executed in the [words indistinct]. In this connection, Amnesty International sent telegrams to Khomeyni, Khamene'i and Musavi to protest against these executions and asked for an end to executions in Iran.

CSO: 4640/127

## IRAN CLANDESTINE ON POSSIBILITY OF TUDEH TAKEOVER

GF011623 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 1805 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The fear of a Soviet-backed communist takeover in Iran following Khomeyni's death, in a manner similar to Afghanistan, has attracted the attention of circles who are aware of the critical state of affairs. From a geographical point of view, northern Iran is in the shadow of the very large Soviet Union, which has occupied Afghanistan. The influence the country has on Iraq is also very strong. Thus, Iran looks surrounded and can easily become the prey of the communists. The activities of the Soviet Embassy in Iran have been reduced. The number of the embassy personnel have been reduced to a minimum and in the past 2 weeks they have prepared the ground for the Soviet doctors who had been working in the Soviet hospital in Tehran for several decades to return home.

The Tudeh Party, on the surface, has also reduced its activities like its masters. However, those who are conversant with the ins and outs of the situation say that the Tudeh Party is highly active and its leader Kianuri, is preparing the position of cadres and also preparing to carry out the last act of the play. The Tudeh Party has not been banned. However, according to the Constitution of the Islamic Republic, it is not allowed to put forward candidates for elections. At the same time, the Tudeh Party leadership has been behaving cautiously and its members have stopped participating in the harsh battle the Mojahedin are waging. In the opinion of many observers, the reason for this is to avoid the oppression of the regime which would have caused the party to lose its ability to take over the power at an opportune moment. Kianuri, also in a letter to Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister, objected to the arrest without trial of 240 members of the Tudeh Party. [Passage on Tudeh Party history omitted.]

Staunch Tudeh's have infiltrated all government departments, the Islamic Republican Party, armed forces and even the guards corps, the recent (?stress) on Imam Khomeyni's decree concerning the need to adhere to Islamic laws, the justness of these laws being just and the advocacy of equality is part of the attempt to minimize the influence of the Tudeh Party among the majority of the illiterate villagers who are faithful to the religion. It is possible that Khomeyni's order dealing with investigating of all judicial

and administrative officials will be used to purge the members of the Tudeh Party. However, it is not known how successful such an action would be. The Islamic Republican Party, like the Soviet Communist Party, has a unit similar to that of the central committee among the Hezbollah. [sentence as heard]

At the lower echelons revolution committees have been formed everywhere, down to the village level and Khomeyni's representatives are everywhere. The realization of Khomeyni's weakness and his complete control has caused the Tudeh Party and the Soviets living in Iran to follow a cautious policy and wait.

CSO: 4640/127

'COLD WAR' IN RUNNING MEHRABAD AIRPORT

GF021644 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] Following the intervention of Tehran's prosecutor in the administrative affairs of Mehrabad Airport and the establishment of a deputy prosecutor's office in the airport, a cold war has begun between the prosecutor's office and that of the premier.

Apparently Lajvardi, brother of Asadollah Lajvardi, the executioner of the regime of the Islamic Republic, who for some time has been overseeing the running of the airport--causing problems for passengers and extorting large sums of money from them by transforming the airport into a tollgate for the regime--has become the target of anger of employees of the prosecutor's office for refusing to share the loot with them.

Passengers who have left the country via Mehrabad Airport say that Lajvardi charged them around 400,000-450,000 tumans before allowing them to leave. After the establishment of the prosecutor's office in the airport, the deputy prosecutor of Tehran announced that they will look into all violations and punish offenders. Following this announcement, the premier's office in a statement declared Tehran's deputy prosecutor as an irresponsible person who has taken this action without prior approval.

Those conversant with the issue of the Islamic Republic say that the premier's office, on Lajvardi's prodding, is trying to force the prosecutor out of the airport and prepare the way for a return of its own cronies. Those who have posted their questionnaires for leaving the country some time ago say that they have not heard anything yet. They have doubt about receiving a positive answer from the government of the Islamic Republic.

CSO: 4640/127

# MAJLIS DEPUTY PREDICTS TRIUMPH OF ISLAMIC REVOLUTION IN IRAQ

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 21 Feb 83 p 2

[Text]

TEHRAN, (IRNA)- Majlis representative from the city of Shiraz Sabah Zangeneh has said that the world imperialism is nowadays reviewing various alternatives for disentangling Iraq from the claws of a crucial war and do it in a manner acceptable by Iran. Zangeneh who addressed a group of the cadets of the Officers College here last week, said that "the world's computers are programmed to evaluate Iran's behavior with respect to each one of those alternatives, and they (i.e. the world imperialism) are trying to attain Iran's satisfaction ... and once we frown upon all of these schemes then there will be no substitute for the present government in Iraq other than 'Islam'."

In its Saturday issue the Persian daily Ettela'at has published the full text of the speech of the Majlis representative, and below are excerpts from the text.

Currently Saudi Arabia, Britain, France have variedly tried many schemes (in relation with the situation in Iraq). One such scheme is to find a substitute for Saddam or possibly a substitute for the ruling Ba'ath Party in Iraq. Already the oppressive powers of the world have thought about several successors for Saddam, none of whom have the slightest chance. Why? Because the Moslem people of Iran are vigilant and present in the scene and will

not allow the coming to power in its neighbourhood, and in Iraq of just another government aligned with the world imperialism.

We are defending ourselves and have willed to stamp out this irreligious regime, because it is an aggressor government and must be punished.

We have to punish this regime ourselves. We will continue to step forward while we think of our future. The Islamic Revolution should remain forceful and should proceed forth.

If we give the slightest chance to the ruling regime in Iraq it will muster up its forces and will continue to purchase arms and will seek an opportunity to launch fresh assaults at us. We should not permit such things to happen in the future ...

There are now several schemes for finding a substitute for Saddam and the ruling Ba'ath Party. One such scheme is to oust Saddam and replace him by another person from the party. From among the army men and civilians some are now regarded as possible substitutes. There is one personality whose name they have so far kept secret, and who has been ordered not to say a word whatsoever for or against the on-going war ...

There is another strategem which suggests that the Ba'ath Party be disbanded. And still



there is another plan which suggests that a Revolutionary Council (in effect the council of the Ba'ath Party) declares that Saddam has been a criminal and that he must be ousted and substituted by another.

Another scheme provides for bringing into the scene retired military figures dependent on Britain and for instigating them into taking control of the situation in that country. Each of these schemes has a bunch of advocates such as the political sub-groups which were born in the wake of the Islamic Revolution here ...

There is also another person by the name of 'Naqib' who is considered as a likely substitute by some other countries....but which of them are the Moslem people of Iraq likely to endorse as a substitute for the present regime in that country? The declaration of the formation of the Iraq Islamic Revolution Council has as though scouted all such schemes.

Therefore, none of these schemes are likely to succeed... the oppressive powers of the world are finding themselves in deep waters as to what they should do in Iraq. If they decide to stage a state coup there, they

will have to sacrifice the person of Saddam who is their most powerful agent in the region. In that case the rest of government heads in the region will raise their voices in complaint and reprove the Superpowers for 'sacrificing just about anyone in critical junctures'. In that case other government leaders in the region will discontinue their trust upon the oppressive world powers, and thereby the peoples in the region will find an impetus to rise up which will be to the detriment of the United States and Britain and other big powers. But on the other hand if they just sit back and kill time, then the Islamic movement will proceed all the same and will gain firmer footholds every day.

Hence whether the camp of the world oppression is to make any move, the current trend of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq augurs well of its triumph in the future... and we hope the day will come when artificial border lines created by Britain and other world powers will be wiped out, and that the global situation will be ripe for the advent of the Imam of our Time (the absent Imam).

PAPER CLAIMS 'MOSLEMS WILL EVENTUALLY REGAIN CONTROL OF MID-EAST'

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 17 Feb 83 p 2

[Text]

TEHRAN (IRNA) — The Persian Daily Jomhuri Eslami said in an article Tuesday that the Great Satan (the United States) is making every effort in order that Saudi Arabia may not slip through its fingers and will continue to do so in the future. But despite all its calculations, it will eventually lose not only Saudi Arabia but rather the entire Middle East. Excerpts:

After the second World War the United States and Britain showed increased interest in Saudi Arabia, and the first meeting between the heads of the governments of Saudi Arabia and the United States was made in Feb. 1954...Eight weeks after the meeting, the U.S. president, Roosevelt passed away, and was succeeded by his aide Truman. In a meeting with ambassadors from the Middle East Truman said unabashedly, "Distinguished Ambassadors, I would like you to remember that among the people who voted for me were 100,000 Jews, who are concerned about Zionism, whereas in the United States there are no Arabs to vote for a presidential candidate..." Three years later, in 1948 the Great Satan recognized the usurping government of Israel..

"Fahd, took the reign after King Khalid. He is one of the pawns closest to the Great Satan and some political observers have noted that even during King Khalid's reign, Fahd was the most autonomous figure. Noted Haig (former U.S. Secretary of State) about Fahd, King Fahd is a close friend of the United States and is cooperative with the United States.

"Today Fahd has turned into a tool for implementing the machination of the Great Satan against the the Moslem peoples of the region. Exploiting his monetary power he interferes with and pulls the strings in many vital and crucial issues in the interest of the United States. But the principal issue which is worrying the United States is the political and administrative weakness of the

Saudi house, and that in addition their religious mask has already ceased to appeal to the masses. While corruption and misappropriation and wastage of the oppressed people's resources of Saudi Arabia has long become a matter of public discontent.

"The policy of the Persian Gulf Sheikhs and of its littoral states cannot possibly be independent of the American-inspired policies of the Saudi household. The Persian Gulf states, although dependent on foreign powers, will certainly disintegrate upon the slightest political movement of the people, and they are never capable of adopting any honorable political decision with respect to the usurping Zionist regime. History has never falsified this reality.

"Today the Persian Gulf countries and especially Saudi Arabia are extremely worried about the aftermath of a war set against the Islamic Republic of Iran by Saddam Hossein. That is why in his Cairo visit, Mitterrand noted 'We must not permit Saddam's government to be toppled.' Why? Obviously because it would mean a tilting of the balance of power in the region. And this tilt would be in the interest of the Moslems masses and of the Islamic Revolution. But in order to give confidence to the Saudi house, in his interview with the W. German Stern (published on August 29, 1981) Ronald Reagan said explicitly that 'The United States will not let Saudi Arabia turn into another Iran. We cannot just sit back and watch somebody else assume the power in Saudi Arabia, and appropriate its oil to himself.'

"But to the criminal Reagan and the Saudi house we need only say that...nobody will be capable of uplifting he whom God has flung aground. The Great Satan will exert every possible effort so that it will not lose Saudi Arabia, but eventually it will lose not only Saudi Arabia but rather the entire of the Middle East, and the region will come under the rule of Moslems... Therefore, 'the U.S. cannot do a damn thing (against Moslems),' as has said Imam Khomeini.

KHALKHALI NOT ATTENDING MAJLIS SESSIONS

GF221738 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Khalkhali-Givi, QOM's representative in the Islamic Republic's Majlis, has not attended the Majlis sessions for a few days now. It has been said that the reason for the absence of Khalkhali, the mad and sick executioner of the Islamic Republic, from the Majlis is a protest against Khomeyni's reaction to his remarks which were printed in one of the occupied Tehran newspapers. Khalkhali has said that the real responsibility for his crimes lies with Khomeyni. He had cleverly tried to prove the truth that Khomeyni knows all about the arrests, torture, and executions; that Khomeyni has known all along, even though in his speeches and in the 8-point decree he acted as if he had just been made aware of all the improper activities of various organizations and the armed guards of the Islamic Republic. One such glaring example is what has been happening in the prisons.

Khalkhali's remarks were supposed to be published in five issues of one of the evening dailies, but the series was stopped after part three was published on the orders of Khomeyni's office and the censorship office of the Islamic Guidance Ministry.

CSO: 4640/127

## BANK DIRECTOR EXPLAINS FOREIGN EXCHANGE RULES

GFO22030 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 21 Feb 83 p 2

[Special interview with Dr Mohsen Nurbakhsh, director of Iran's Central Bank--date, place not given]

[Text] Dr Mohsen Nurbakhsh in referring to the free transfer of foreign exchange said: Free transfer of foreign exchange is a different question from that of lifting restrictions on visits abroad. Although the announcement of lifting restrictions on journeys abroad is linked to that question, yet at the same time, the decision of the Central Bank was not for the sake of lifting restrictions on visits abroad. The bank has devised these rules and regulations in pursuance of a certain policy in respect to foreign exchange. The fact is that one source of our foreign exchange is derived from the sale of oil and export of goods and we believe that this foreign exchange belongs to government; furthermore, according to the directive of the Imam, this foreign exchange should be utilized towards welfare of the nation and for the good of the country. Therefore, in accordance with the priorities and necessities which have been laid down, this amount should be utilized in the interest of the people. Nevertheless, there are a series of needs of society which cannot be met from the foreign exchange which is earmarked for the government, in other words, there are some who demand foreign exchange and others who supply the foreign exchange. Workers who are employed in the Persian Gulf region earn a good deal of foreign exchange, and we believe that in one year they may earn as much as \$1 billion, but this foreign exchange has not so far come to our country in this quantity and we deprived ourselves of the foreign exchange of those who worked in other places and are the suppliers of the foreign exchange. Therefore, rules of the bank as far as the foreign exchange is concerned were that people who have foreign exchange outside the country could be given permission to import it into the country and that this foreign exchange could be registered according to the rules that have been formulated for this very purpose, or alternately, the amount of foreign exchange brought into the country could be registered on the passport of the person who imports the foreign exchange, subsequently he could take this amount outside the country at his discretion. In fact we agreed to introduce a policy in this respect in a way that it could affect appreciably the rate of the foreign exchange which was beyond the control of the government and kill that exchange rate.

We used to tell them that if you bring the foreign exchange with you, we will confiscate it at the airport and this had created a big problem because nobody imported any foreign exchange for fear of its being confiscated. It was on this account that we announced that if anybody had foreign exchange outside the country, should he bring it to Iran, he could again take it out with him and similarly, if he so desired, he could deposit the amount in our banks and could transfer it to another person through banking procedures. Thus we brought the foreign exchange into our banking system which was outside our sphere of supervision, and at the same time, we provided facilities for the importer to take the foreign exchange outside the country or transfer it to another person through banking transactions.

Regarding what was the motive or policy for free export of foreign exchange, the director of the Central Bank said: If you want to examine this matter, keeping in view our foreign exchange policy, I must say that our motive was to gain control of new sources of foreign exchange and secondly, the persons who demanded foreign exchange could also make use of this source. This is the main reason for the free import and export of foreign exchange, although the ban on foreign visits has also been lifted, but this was done after the decision to free import and export of foreign exchange had been taken, and the Central Bank played no role in this. With respect to those who want foreign exchange, prior to the lifting of ban on foreign travel it was thought that this rule will apply only to a certain class of people. For example, suppose a person owes money abroad but has no documents to prove this debt, or those who have their families abroad and for some reason are in urgent need of foreign exchange, and again there are people who want to go abroad, they are in addition to the above two types, have created an additional demand at this stage and in fact, this last category is at its beginning state and I think this will gradually be adjusted.

In reply to a question on what effect the free export of foreign exchange will have on society, the director said: I think this decision of the government is based on the fact that according to our constitution there should be no ban on foreign travel or on export of foreign exchange, and since this very rule governs the country, we cannot put any limitations on this rule. Formerly, in view of certain obligations, we had to introduce some restrictions. I remember that during martyr Rajai's time when we laid down restrictions on foreign travel, it was solely due to lack of aircraft fuel. The Abadan Refinery had been damaged and if foreign travel were allowed to take place as before, we could not manage it. It was this very reason that prompted us to place restrictions on foreign travel. But now no such limitations exist and there is no valid reason for having a ban on foreign travel. In our view people are free, if they want to travel abroad, they can do so and if they want to come, they can come. As long as they have no counterrevolutionary motives and had not harmed the revolution, there is no valid reason or regulation banning foreign travel.



## JEWISH MARTYRS PRAISED IN WAR WITH IRAQ

LD251010 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] Memorial services were held at the Abrishami Synagogue yesterday afternoon to honor the memory of Jewish martyrs in the Iran-Iraq war. Representatives of religious minorities at the Islamic Consultative Assembly and a large number of Jews, were present at these ceremonies. During the ceremonies, Mr Karrubi [head of the Martyrs' Foundation and supervisor of the Imam's Relief Committee] paid tribute to the martyrs. Mr Karrubi also praised unity between the Muslims and the religious minorities. In another part of his speech, Mr Karrubi said: All the prophets were given missions to eradicate corruption and to improve society. We should follow their path and continue our struggle in a united front to achieve the goals of the Islamic Revolution. He added: Our enemies were trying to frighten the minorities away from the revolution, but fortunately the religious minorities stood beside the people through all the stages of the revolution and foiled the conspiracies of the enemies of Islam and Iran. He went on: The religious minorities proved their sincerity by offering martyrs to Islam and the revolution.

Addressing the Jews, Mr Karrubi said: With your sincerity, you brought despondency to the Zionist enemy and showed your disapproval of Zionism.

Khosrow Maqi, the deputy of the Jewish minority at the Islamic Consultative Assembly, also spoke at these ceremonies and said: The glorious marches staged by the Jews before the revolution, their participation in the reconstruction crusade, their presence on the battlefronts, the assistance and donations given by the Jews to the combatants of Islam on the battlefronts and their glorious ceremonies to mark the 10-day dawn, are all indicative of the fact that Iranian Jews have always strived to serve the Islamic Republic.

At the end of these ceremonies, Rabbi Davidi said in a speech: The greatness of the Islamic revolution is understood when we see that a mother, who has already offered one martyr, sacrifices her other son for a land where Islam is ruling. At the end of his speech, Rabbi Davidi said prayers for the Imam of Ummah, wishing him health and a long life.

CSO: 4640/127



EVIN PRISON CALLED 'TRAINING CENTER'; CONDITIONS LABELLED 'SUPERB'

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 17 Feb 83 p 2

[Text] TEHRAN (IRNA) - Foreign guest currently here to attend the Ten-Day Dawn ceremonies visited various parts of Evin Prison Tuesday.

In various workshops the prisoners were working and they explained their activities prior to their arrest and the treatment they are receiving from the prison authorities. They expressed their hatred against counterrevolutionaries and Munafiqeen.

The guests also visited health department of the prison where Dr Shaikholeslam gave necessary explanations. He said that he was Health Minister during the defunct Pahlavi regime and after his arrest he was busy in treating prisoners and IRGC combatants who are wounded in war fronts. He said he was sentenced to life but is allowed to leave prison for medical treatment for which his services are needed outside prison.

The prosecutor of the Islamic Revolution Assadollah Lajavardi said that the prisoners receive wages for what they do. He said the timetable for the inmates is set up in

such a way that they give up their previous belief and accept Islam because the Islamic Republic is moving in the direction of God.

Some of the guests after visiting the Evin Prison spoke to IRNA and condemned Western press propaganda and organizations such as "Human Rights". They described the situation in the prison superb notifying that Evin Prison is a university where the inmates are trained as human in its true sense.

Shaikh Abu Shahid a member of Islamic Unity Movement of Tunisia said that in fact the people in prison should not be called prisoners as they are working closely with the staff of the prison. Evin (prison) was like a school or training center, he said and refuted the claims of "Human Rights" Organizations, "Amnesty International" and Western press which said Iranian prisoners are being tortured. He said he did not even believe such rumors in the past and after visiting here his belief has become firmer.

Edris Algazayeri from Al-

geria, a professor at a Paris University said that he learned how one could be free in a prison.

He also condemned Western press concerning their stand on the Iranian prisoners. He said Iran has put the interests of 'supercriminals' in danger and therefore they propagate against Iran.

Another guest residing in England who preferred not to be identified by name asked the prisoners if they were being tortured to extract information from them. He said the prisoners told him they were wrong. He said British TV networks puts films every month showing prisoners being tortured in Iran. But he said, he never believed that torture is exercised in Iran and those films shown in Britain belonged to pre-revolution era to paint a wrong picture of the revolution. He said his belief has become firmer after visiting all sections of the Evin Prison, and in conclusion swore that he now considered it his duty to present facts on Iran before the world.

COUP REGIME OF TURKEY: 'UNIMAGINABLE TREASURE OF U.S.'

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 25, 26, 27, 29 Jan 83

[25 Jan 83 p 16]

[Text] It was precisely on 11 September 1980, about 8 days before the aggression of the Ba'thist regime of Iraq on the Islamic Republic and simultaneous with the NATO maneuvers on the Turkish coast, when a coup d'etat in Turkey was reported, which materialized and the military took control of that country.

Turkey after 11 September faced an economic, political and social crisis. Inflation, high prices, unemployment, skirmishes, terrorism and political chaos reached their peak among the parties.

According to existing documents, in the course of 8 months, from November 1979 to August 1980 [as published], 1,800 people had become victims of the terrorist acts in Turkey. Terrorism in Turkey reached its peak in July 1979, during which an average of 15 persons were killed every day.

In early April 1980, the presidency of (Fakhri Kur) and (Turk) ended and the Turkish Parliament, despite holding 130 joint sessions of the National Assembly and Senate, was unable to elect a presidential candidate with a majority vote. The reason was the violent and critical fight for the control of power between the two political forces in that country, the ruling 'Edalat Party and the opposition party, called the People's Republican Party. Until that time, it was unprecedented in Turkey for the presidential elections to become so critical and to take so long as a result of the political differences between these two parties.

The political struggles to gain power and the internal differences in the Parliament caused the legislative organizations of the country to concentrate all their attention and activities on the internal parliamentary political problems and to disregard the legislative bills and the issues concerning

the social and economic affairs of the country. This situation paralyzed the affairs of the country.

(Jack Layan Gil), who had been temporarily selected to replace the president, assumed a mediating role in order to reconcile the opposing rival factions within the Parliament and to find a compromise solution acceptable to both sides in order to break the deadlock involving the presidential elections. Through his mediation, a meeting took place between Demirel, the head of the government from the 'Edalat Party, and (Ejvit), the leader of the People's Republican Party, at the end of July. In this meeting, the political situation of the country, in a crisis as the result of the terrorist acts and the adventurism of the extremist groups and the adventurous elements of the national action party of (Alb Arsalan Turkish), was discussed and in order to prevent these actions, in 20 out of 67 provinces of the country, martial law was declared. But, this step did not attain significant results either.

(Ejvit), the leader of the People's Republican Party, declared that his party would cooperate with the ruling circles to normalize the political situation of the country. At the same time, he pointed out that he opposed the "security organization courts," to which extensive rights and privileges have been granted.

The real reason for the political crisis in Turkey at that point in time was a reflection of the whole social, political and economic structure of that country and its dependence on imperialist governments, especially the United States and the military alliances, because, since 1974, when Turkey controlled 40 percent of Cyprus' oil after invading that country, the relations between the United States and Turkey had been cooling off and following that attack, the United States put sanctions on the export of arms and also stopped its financial and economic aid to Turkey. The U.S. reaction caused (Ejvit), who was the prime minister of Turkey at the time, to close 26 U.S. bases.

The end to U.S. aid to Turkey marked the beginning of an economic crisis in Turkey. The Turkish economy, because of its nature, could not survive without the injection of foreign aid and with the end to U.S. aid, the largest contributor among the countries providing financial aid to Turkey, the economy went through a decline.

The existence of economic difficulties in Turkey and the inability to find a realistic solution to the social difficulties in that country proved favorable for the start of a wave of terrorism, incident creating and adventurist operations by extremist and fascist elements and groups. And, in addition, annually, 100,000 of the villagers set out for cities hoping to

find work and escape poverty and hunger, who would generally join the army of unemployed people in the cities.

The number of unemployed in Turkey had reached 3 million. The increasingly high prices for the workers was intolerable and the rate of inflation in Turkey had reached 80 percent. According to the published statistics in the Turkish press of the time, the amounts of foreign debts of that country at the beginning of 1980 reached 18 billion [as published] and Turkey was forced to devalue its currency in order to fight inflation.

On 9 March 1980, Demirel was the prime minister of Turkey. In order to set the chaotic situation of the country straight, he began to consider getting more aid and loans from foreign countries. For this reason, another military agreement with the United States was signed, granting permission to the United States to use its previously closed bases in Turkey.

With this agreement, the United States, which up to that point had opposed the Western countries and international financial institutions giving aid to Turkey, gradually allowed the reinstatement of financial aid to Turkey by those countries. For this purpose, a loan of \$1.63 billion was given to Turkey in order to enable the government of Demirel to put the economy of the country in order and also to facilitate the entry of Turkey into the Common Market.

But this aid could not cure the ills of Turkey, either. The situation in Turkey was becoming more critical every day. The use by the United States of the military bases once again as well as the efforts of Turkey to join the Common Market once again provoked the protest of the people and the parties of Turkey. Inside the Turkish Parliament, the two parties, the People's Republican Party and the (National Salamat), of which the Republican Party, due to the leadership of (Ejvit), was the most important opposition party to the government of Demirel, demanded better relations with the Soviet Union than with the West. Also, the (National Salamat Party), headed by (Najmoddin Abakan), which was known as an Islamic party and has 17 representatives in the Turkish Parliament, condemned the agreement between Turkey and the United States and asked the government of Demirel to establish better relations with Islamic countries and to prevent the U.S. activities in Turkey against the Islamic countries.

[16 Jan 83 p 16]

The situation in Turkey, due to the increase in assassinations and skirmishes, was becoming more chaotic every day. During this period, within one week alone, 100 persons had been killed in various areas. Meanwhile, the commander of the armed forces of Turkey, General Evren, said in connection with the political skirmishes and unrest: If the unrest continues, the military forces must take action. Evren, who is presently the president

of Turkey, said: Until the situation of the country returns to normal, we must not leave our position. Once the situation returns to normal, we will turn the country over to those who come to power after us.

Also, hand in hand with the events in Turkey, the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, the expansion of anti-American sentiments and the capture of the spy nest in Iran had had their influence on the Muslim people of Turkey, who make up 98 percent of the population of that country, and the movement of the Muslim people of Turkey, which was inspired by the Islamic revolution of Iran, was increasing in dimensions every day. The Turkish Muslims, like the Muslim people of Iran who held mass marches in the streets in the beginning, were following the same method. In their marches, they carried pictures of Imam Khomeyni and slogans about the establishment of an Islamic Republic in Turkey as well as driving out the Americans and their dependents from Turkey.

This wave expanded so greatly that a message, in which Imam Khomeyni asked all the Muslim people of the world on the occasion of Jerusalem Day to engage in demonstrations and marches in order to expose the crimes of the Zionists and to support the Palestinians, was also welcomed by the Turkish Muslims. With this purpose in mind, demonstrations were held by the Muslims in Turkey, in which they burned the U.S. and Zionist flags in their huge marches of millions in the streets, in the same way that it was done in Iran. On the other hand, the right-wing, pro-American and leftist, pro-Soviet fascist parties and groups intended to darken the horizon of the uprising of the Turkish Muslims in order to defile this movement by instigating fights, terrorism, violence, murder and attacks on Muslims. Simultaneous with these events, the Islamic faction in the Parliament impeached and dismissed the foreign minister for his relations with Israel.

At this point, the political observers likened the Turkish situation to a keg of gunpowder and were anticipating any sort of event and change on the Turkish political and social scene.

Finally, at dawn, 5:45 in the morning, on 12 September, the Turkish government radio announced that a military coup had taken place. In the morning, when the people of Turkey awoke, they saw soldiers and tanks stationed on all the streets and sensitive points of the city. The U.S. officials, including President Carter and Edmund Muskie, the U.S. secretary of state, called the occurrence of the military coup in Turkey, which was simultaneous with the beginning of the maneuvers of the NATO forces in that country and the return of the commander of the Turkish Air Force from the United States, unavoidable. The officials of the U.S. State Department said: The occurrence of the coup was anticipated and the United States knew about it beforehand. One



and a half hours before the official announcement of the coup, the United States was informed and this news was announced by the high ranking officer of the command headquarters of Turkey to the military attache of the U.S. embassy by telephone.

The coup operators said in a communique broadcast from Radio Ankara that they had brought about the coup in order to prevent civil war and in order to set the economic situation of the country in order. In this communique, they also announced that a curfew was in effect throughout Turkey, the Parliament and all political parties and trade unions were abolished and all political activities were prohibited. Immediately after the coup, it was announced that Prime Minister Demirel, (Ejvit), the leader of the People's Republican Party, as well as 118 other political officials had been arrested by the military authorities. Gen Kenan Evren, the leader of the coup operators, violently attacked the government of Suleyman Demirel, the prime minister of the overthrown government, in a radio and television speech after the coup and said that Turkey had been a country without an owner during the government of Demirel. Evren also attacked the Muslims wanting to establish an Islamic government in Turkey (like the one in Iran), accusing them of having deviated from the patriotic principles founded by Kemal Ataturk. The leader of the coup said that the country would remain loyal to NATO and would respect international agreements. He added: The military government shall preserve good neighborly relations based on mutual respect and non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

The military leader of Turkey emphasized that the members of the Parliament of Turkey will not be prosecuted and that only those who break the laws will be prosecuted. He added: The leaders of the political parties who have been arrested and are being detained will be released as soon as the political situation is favorable.

In regards to how long the military will stay in power, General Evren said: I give my word of honor that as soon as we set the affairs of the country in order, we will return to the barracks and a founders' assembly will begin to work between 30 August and 12 October 1981, unless an unanticipated event should prevent the establishment of the assembly.

The coup operators established a council called the national security council, made up of General Evren, as chairman; Gen (Tortis Ersin), the commander of the ground forces; Gen Tashin Sahinkaya, commander of the Air Force; Admiral Nejat Tumer, commander of the navy; Gen Sadat (Salazun), commander of the gendarmerie and Gen (Hubar Salink), the commander of the (Ezheh) forces, who was elected as the secretary general of the national security council.

[27 Feb 83 p 16]

Since the military came to power in Turkey, the people of Turkey have witnessed various events in social, economic and political areas which are the result of the actions and positions of the ruling military in regards to the existing problems in Turkish society.

After the national security council was established, through a communique and by the order of General Evren, Bulend Ulusu, the former commander of the Turkish Air Force, was commissioned to form a new Cabinet in that country. Also, this council decided to expand the decisions concerning the existing emergency condition to the areas of censorship, the occupation or closure of newspapers and the inspection of private correspondence. These actions were earlier presented to the Parliament, which was abolished on 12 September, in draft form and the ruling military council turned this bill into law. This law gave the power to the commanders to take emergency measures in regards to closing the important industrial and commercial factories and banning public and political meetings. According to the above-mentioned law, the military courts are competent to rule on the offences of civilians and armed aggressions. According to the reports in the newspapers of the time, the committees that were assigned the task of uniting the Constitution accomplished their duty. According to this Constitution, General Evren will be the head of the interim government, the national security council and the Cabinet. Following the ratification of this bill, the military government closed the union of the syndicates of that country, which included 148 labor syndicates.

Also, the activities of 480 other independent syndicates were prohibited and all the assets of the above-mentioned syndicates were frozen in the Turkish banks. About 50,000 of the leaders of the syndicates, university professors, students, workers and political leaders of Turkey were arrested by the military forces.

Due to the increase in the number of individuals arrested in the city of (Adna), the military government turned the cinemas in that city into prisons.

Three months since the coup in Turkey, (Salem Bayeseh), the editor of "JARIB" newspaper, was arrested for having published a report on the price increases in Turkey once again. The wave of arrests was expanding every day. During the coup, about 40,000 persons were arrested in Turkey on various charges.

The arrested individuals who were freed after their charges were investigated all spoke of torture in the prisons. A large number were even murdered under torture. Although the military actions resulted in a decrease in the wave of violence and killing in Turkey, scattered resistance in most areas of Turkey by the Turkish strugglers against the military continued. Torture and



killing in the Turkish prisons caused reactions on the part of organizations such as human rights organizations and Amnesty International. But, these protests, because of the support of the West for the military government, were ineffective. And these organizations were silenced by order of their masters in the West. A graveyard peace and calm imposed by the military through force, arrests, torture and executions continued in Turkey. Although the silence of the people in the face of the actions of the coup operators did not show national and general cooperation and consent, because of the three years that the country had been governed self-destructively, the ordinary people were either indifferent to the consequences of the existing situation or welcomed them on occasions. The Turkish military did not stop with these actions. By imposing laws in social areas, they tried to expand their influence over the ordinary lives of the people of Turkey. Last year, laws were imposed to prevent religious inclinations. These laws require government employees to wear ties, shave every day and not to grow beards.

One issue which the military, since it came to power, has maneuvered considerably and resorted to in order to continue its rule has been the writing of the new Constitution of Turkey. The military government declared after the coup that it intended to devise a new constitution to be approved by the nation. However, it did not set a particular time limit. Some time later, the military announced that a committee had been commissioned to write a draft of the new Constitution. In this regard, General Evren said in a speech in January 1981 in Konya that between 30 September and 23 October of the past Christian year, the founders' assembly would be formed to prepare a new Constitution for Turkey. Following these statements, in June 1981, the five-member national security council announced that it intended to establish a founders' assembly to prepare the draft of the new constitution of that country. Finally, in October 1981, an assembly, whose members had been selected by the military, was opened by Evren as the founders' assembly. This assembly announced that its duty was to write the new Constitution.

The head of this assembly, (Sa'idi Irmak), said concerning how long the preparation of the Constitution would take: It is impossible to set a deadline for the preparation of the new constitution and we are not legally bound to set a time limit in this regard.

Finally, 21 months after the military government in Turkey came to power, and while for months the mass media of that country has discussed the future referendum of the Constitution and a return to democracy, Bulend Ulusu, the military prime minister of Turkey, said: No longer does anyone have the right to criticize the draft of the Constitution, which has recently been presented to the assembly of this country. Also, General Evren, in a

speech, warned the representatives to the assembly and the government officials against making any kind of comment about the draft of the Constitution.

The announcement for the referendum on the Constitution, as well as its date, was published in a communique one month before the statements of Ulusu by General Ersin, the commander of the ground forces and a member of the national security council. In it, those who refuse to fill out the election forms are threatened with six months imprisonment. This general also announced 7 November as the date to hold the referendum to ratify the Constitution.

General Evren, who traveled to various Turkish cities a few days before the 7 November elections to force the people of Turkey to accept the new Constitution, asked the people of Turkey in speeches to accept the new Constitution and, in this way, to secure their future.

[29 Jan 83 pp 15, 16]

He also said that the restrictions on individual freedoms evident in the new Constitution are to prevent violence from returning to the country and that the armed forces will return to their barracks only when the future of the republic, the government and the people of Turkey has been secured.

Finally, 7 November arrived and the referendum in Turkey was held, while the press, radio and television were prohibited from expressing their opinions concerning the Constitution.

In the reports from Turkey, without mentioning the number of participants in this referendum, the news agencies stated: According to the latest results announced by the government radio and television of Turkey, 92 percent of those voting endorsed the new constitution which was prepared by the Turkish military to transfer power to a parliamentary system. As a result of this referendum, according to a transitional bill ratified by the assembly and the military council and inserted in the Constitution, Evren is to be the president of that country for seven years.

In my view, at the present point, the situation in Turkey, which was at one time a scene of violence, unrest and killings, has, as a result of the coup on 12 September, become calm and the country has been restored to its normal condition. But, the question which arises is: What was the reason for the crisis in Turkey in the first place and, also, the reason for the success of the military government?

To answer this question, two factors must be examined carefully.

First, the military and strategic position of Turkey and, second, the influence of the West, particularly the United States, in that country.

As for the geographical position of Turkey, because it is located in the southeast of Europe and next to Iran, Syria, Iraq, the Soviet Union and Greece as well as the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea, also, as a country connecting Mediterranean Europe with the Middle East and, in addition, because of its domination over the Dardanelles Straits, the only water passage for the Soviet Union to the Mediterranean Sea, Turkey is of special strategic importance and is considered one of the strategic areas of the world.

This strategic position caused the Soviet Union after World War II and the beginning of the Cold War to demand the internationalization of these straits and open shipping for the countries on the coasts of the Black Sea. This issue made Turkey quite a morsel for the West, headed by the United States, who for a long time had looked upon Turkey as a base from which to watch the Soviet Union and also to expand its influence in Asia and the Middle East, in order to be secure from any threat from the East.

U.S. imperialism took maximum advantage of this golden opportunity. First, in 1947, the United States signed a military agreement with Turkey; then, it sent arms, military equipment and advisors there.

Turkey was then placed on the list of countries eligible for the Marshall Plan. Then, in 1952, Turkey became a member of the NATO Alliance. Since that time, relations between Turkey and Western imperialism became stronger each day and Turkey became one of the agents of imperialism in the region. In order to keep Turkey forever dependent, obedient and a plaything in its hands, U.S. imperialism planned from the very beginning an economy for Turkey dependent on foreign aid, so that if foreign aid to Turkey should stop, that country could never survive.

Then, using the threat of Communism and membership in NATO as an excuse, the West engaged in training and arming, the costs of which were borne on the shoulders of the dependent economy of Turkey.

Precisely these two factors have been responsible for the success of the U.S. conspiracy in Turkey.

For instance, as we mentioned earlier, with the closing of the 26 U.S. bases in Turkey, followed by the stoppage of financial and military aid from the United States, the crisis began in Turkey.

The United States had already prepared for such an event in Turkey, that should the foundations of its domination be weakened in that country, it would have a weapon with which to threaten and punish anyone who would threaten it.

The events which happened following the economic sanctions and crisis in Turkey was, on the one hand, worrisome and unpleasant for the United States. The demonstrations and protests against the presence of the Americans in Turkey, on the one hand, and the fall of the shah, the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran and the beginning of the liberation movements in the region, on the other, prepared the grounds for the revolution in Turkey as well.

But, considering the blow it had suffered in Iran, U.S. imperialism did not want to lose Turkey, with its distinguished strategic position. Such things as starting chaos and skirmishes and the creation of dependent parties were among the weapons used by imperialism in Turkey in order to make the existence of a dominant military power acceptable to public opinion. Unfortunately, the Islamic and progressive parties fell into this trap and through terrorist acts, provided the grounds for the renewed control of Turkey by the United States.

Finally, imperialism was able to benefit from three factors: the economic crisis, a dependent army and chaos and violence and to once again bring the Muslim people of Turkey under its sinister domination.

With the victory of the coup operators in Turkey, the United States immediately resumed its financial and economic aid to ameliorate the heavy economic crisis in Turkey. This aid brought along relative improvement in the Turkish economy. On the other hand, the improvement of the Turkish economy has been a justification for the imposition of violence and suppression by the military and their rule over the people of Turkey thus far.

At the present time, the news agencies rarely broadcast a report concerning skirmishes, violence or economic crisis in Turkey. All of them report about the aid to Turkey of the United States, Germany and other countries dependent on the Great Satan. The reports are abundant concerning the expansion of military airports and bases in Turkey.

Some time ago, the U.S. ambassador in Ankara announced that an agreement had been signed between the United States and Turkey according to which in some of the Turkish airports, military equipment which may be used by "NATO" are to be stored. The statement of the U.S. ambassador in Ankara verified a news item revealed by the WASHINGTON POST on 7 November, simultaneous with the referendum in Turkey. In October, a secret agreement was

signed between Turkey and the United States concerning the reconstruction of two air bases in Erzurum and Batman as well as the creation of another base in the city of Mus. In this connection, the German press also reported that these three air bases were taken being considered for bombers, and, at the same time, would be used for long range bombers, cargo planes and fueling airplanes. These bases are being considered for use in the "Rapid Deployment Forces."

Concerning the strategic importance of the bases, it has been announced that the NATO bombers which begin their flight from this point can reach the Transcaucasian border area without refueling. These bases can also be used by the NATO planes to reach some areas in the region as well as the Islamic countries.

On the other hand, the Turkish defense minister said concerning these bases: About 10 airports in Turkey are being reconstructed. He added: We had the reconstruction of these airports in mind for a long time and it was in the five-year plan for the structural fund, which provides for the cost of the reconstruction.

In any case, Turkey has now turned into a political, military factor of the Western superpower in the region, which can both control the sea and air movement of the Eastern superpower and prevent the expansion of the Islamic and revolutionary movements in the Middle East.

Paul Hunter, a member of the U.S. security organization, who was previously the head of the CIA branch in Ankara, believes that the regime of the coup d'etat is an "unimaginable treasure." Now, we must wait and see when imperialism will make use of this unimaginable treasure.

10,000  
DSO: 4040/107



## BRIEFS

GUARDS INTENSIFY ESFAHAN ARRESTS--According to reports coming from Esfahan, following the assassination of two guards in the city who were killed as a result of an attack and subsequent shooting by the antiregime strugglers, the arrest and internment of people has intensified. The guards arrest and jail innocent people on imaginary charges. During the armed attack by the opposition to the regime on a vehicle transporting guards, which occurred in the city a few days ago, two guards were killed and three others were critically wounded. The assailants fled the scene unharmed. [Text] [GF021622 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 2 Mar 83]

REPORTS ON RENAULT STRIKE--According to a report by the correspondent of the Free Voice of Iran in Tehran, 3,000 workers of the Renault automobile factories went on strike in protest against lack of safety arrangements and inadequate wages. The report adds that about 2 weeks ago, widespread protests were lodged by workers complaining about lack of safety measures--which in several cases resulted in incapacitation and severing of workers' hands--and against poor wages and long working hours. The workers strike was put to an end on the orders of Lajvardi, the public prosecutor of Tehran, and after several arrests and expulsion of several workers, the workmen could not help but end their strike. [Text] [GF011351 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 28 Feb 83]

PORTUGUESE ENTRANCE VISA REQUIREMENT--Portugal has moved to stem the entrance of Iranian citizens into the country, considering that they are using Portuguese territory without justification. Portugal, which was the only country in Western Europe to accept Iranians with just a passport, now requires an entry visa beginning on 19 February. [Text] [Lisbon 0 DIA in Portuguese 25 Feb 83 p 27]

CSO: 3542/75

## EDITORIALS CRITICIZE FUNCTIONS OF GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS

### Private Construction Called Mess

Kathmandu THE MOTHERLAND in English 29 Jan 83 p 2

[Text] The way private construction activities are carried out in the urban areas of the valley provides one with enough indication that the capital, among other places, will turn into a huge slum in the next ten years. This is just a modest calculation, and it is only sad that the authorities concerned act in an unconcerned manner. Not only that. It is due to the authorities, particularly the town panchayat and the town development boby, the rules they are supposed to enforce and the manner in which they are actually enforced, that has led to the present-day mess, and unless some prompt measures are taken, it will be a kind of monkey business in the near future. Some of the rules meant to govern such construction activities have outlived their utility. They however continue to exist with the authorities feeling no need whatsoever to change them. When some rules are enforced, it is done so clumsily and half-heartedly that it causes a lot of inconvenience to the people who in turn choose to ignore than to abide by them. Houses spring up in vast numbers, without the said bodies taking any note of it.

The people too are partially responsible for this bizarre phenomenon. While building houses they tend to overlook the passage, sewerage and such other needs as emphasis is usually laid on utilization of maximum possible available land. In the process the fate of public land, path and roads hangs in balance all the time. Overstepping one's right on such matters is rather common. Nobody keeps vigil against such activities, not even the general public which takes tesspaassing of one's limits as a fact of life. And nobody else but the authorities themselves who have failed to live up to the image of an effective arbiter of rules and regulations are to be held responsible for such an attitude.

### Class Organizations Held Remiss in Duties

Kathmandu THE MOTHERLAND in English 1 Feb 83 p 2

[Text] Though the different class organisations are supposed to play important role in the scheme of the Panchayat system, these functional organisations are not living upto expectations. Their presence is felt during the



times of election and not much is heard of them after that. The whole idea of producing active cadres through these different organisations seems completely defeated because none of them have been able to assert their role, to say nothing about blazing trail. Organisations like the one for the elders have no specific function. In fact it is no class organisation as it represents no specific class interests. It is a misnomer to call it a class organisation.

From the organisational point of view, the peasant, labour, youth and women's organisations could have been sufficiently vitalised. The peasant's organisation for one could have been made active enough to protect the interest of the peasants but it is doing nothing in this respect. Likewise, the women's organisation could have been mobilised to a much greater extent to create the much needed awareness among the women. The valuable youth force of the country is lying idle as this potential strength is not channelised for any meaningful purpose. Since these organisations lack drive and initiative, the government should have given them some concrete plans and programmes to be completed within a given period of time. In the absence of such plans and programmes there can be hardly any justification for having these organisations because this way they can neither promote the cause of the system nor that of the class which they claim to represent.

#### Mistakes, Failures Laid to Prime Minister

Kathmandu THE MOTHERLAND in English 2 Feb 83 p 2

[Text] Speaking the other day at a meeting organised to honour the martyrs, Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa tried hard to impress on the people that the economic progress of the country was being hampered by impediments created by political elements not well disposed towards the government. While it is true that the magnitude of the country's problems requires united efforts and there is no such effort being made at present, it would be ridiculous to blame his opponents for his failures. This kind of excuses for the non-performance of the government do not wash no matter what the Prime Minister says. Equally untenable is his argument that the people are not sufficiently enlightened to find social evils like corruption. People are fully aware of the rampant corruption prevailing in the country, but any attempt they make to bring it under control is nullified by the Government's shameless policy of openly encouraging corruption. The people have been extremely tolerant of the misdoings of the Government, and if they deserve any reproach, it must be for their failure to raise effective voice against this lack-lustre government.

#### Impediments Seen Hampering Economy

Kathmandu THE MOTHERLAND in English 5 Feb 83 p 2

[Text] Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa has a shameless habit of blaming others for his failures, or even his mistakes. One example of such an indulgence was presented by him the other day and the issue involved was one of his remarks at a hastily arranged press meet two days before his departure on

a five-nation trip. Replying to a question concerning Nepal's viewpoint on the representation of Kampuchea at the forthcoming non-aligned summit, Thapa said Nepal wants to stand by the decision of the Havana Summit. Before leaving here for New Delhi last Thursday, however, he said: "Our view is that the government represented at the UN is the sole legal government of Kampuchea." Not only that. He even blamed the press for the faux pas saying that it was found dealing with other aspects of the question than on the government's stand on recognition of the Kampuchean government.

The Prime Minister should have known that in Havana, Kampuchea's seat was left vacant while at the UN it is occupied by the Khmer Rouge representative, and as such what he is saying is confusing if not contradictory. Explaining the country's stand vis-a-vis a controversial matter one day and presenting another version two days later is surely not a convincing way of conducting foreign policy. Amendment has been made, yet this shows how lightly the government treats major issues, national and international, that confront the country today.

#### Administrative Machinery Termed Slow, Arrogant

Kathmandu THE MOTHERLAND in English 8 Feb 83 p 2

[Text] The administrative machinery of the government has always been a subject of controversy and criticism. In spite of waging fingers by both locals and foreigners alike, it continues to be the same. The government officials have always been slow and arrogant and have in no way shown any inclination in clearing their tables and speeding up work that have no cause for delay.

At the recent one and a half month Regional Administrative Training programme held at Birendranagar under the Administrative Management Ministry, it was emphasized by the Assistant Minister for General Administration that the training programme had been initiated by realizing the fact that the administrative machinery would be dynamic only when the personnel manning it were efficient.

The training programme, though a welcome step, will have to go a long way to raise efficiency of government employees. Many officials have been sent abroad for the purpose without much success and training others here without proper motivation can in no way yield fruitful results. The magnitude of the problem indeed merits serious thought and calls to be tackled at the grass-root level and not by training a handful of employees at home. The delay and inefficiency in the administrative set up has only been tackled half-heartedly in the past and unless something positive is done about it, new employees will continue to inherit the same as handed down to them by their seniors in office.

CSO: 4600/389

## ECONOMIC RELATIONS PROMOTED WITH VARIOUS COUNTRIES

## Need for Foreign Aid Pointed Out

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 28 Jan 83 p 2

[Text] There is no unanimity on how aid is to be defined. The United Nations has elucidated the term to include grants and long-term loans for economic development reasons. At the other pole, a handful of scholars subsume all aspects of economic relations between developed and developing countries such as private investment and trade. There are others who would be reluctant to consider military assistance an aid component as it plays no important role in economic progress. The conventional procedure, namely the UN explanation, is followed for brevity's sake in discussing the Nepalese experience later on in this essay, in which GIRISH P. PANT analyzes some major issues on aid.

Aid is an obsolete concept in three senses. First, even during the period 1900-1914, advanced nations were exporting a huge bulk of capital to developing areas. While the present day industrialized countries show great reluctance in giving aid equivalent to even one per cent of Gross National Product (GNP), Great

Britain during that period was offering seven per cent of her GNP. Second, a huge pool of rich manpower—a form of aid—was received by the developing countries of the nineteenth century such as Argentina, Australia and New Zealand. Third, during the last couple of centuries, subsidies were meted to loyal vassals and payments

were made to overlords to purchase friendship and peace and so forth.

**Politics of Aid**

Aid is given for a variety of reasons. The philanthropic feeling that social welfare measures should be arduously pursued throughout the globe is one such reason. There is the 'insurance policy' argument for foreign

aid that opulent nations will be in a precarious situation unless they abet poor nations. The impulsive desire to win friends and influence people also exists. Other potent reasons are the desires to protect one's potential investments and to get rid of surplus food or manufactures.

The internal performance of many developing countries has shown that aid has acted as a viable catalyst. Some South-East Asian and African nations are good examples in this respect. They have rapidly progressed through the proper utilization of both foreign assistance and domestic resources. In view of this fact, the call of the

developing nations for more assistance is quite valid.

Most developing countries cannot attain self-sustained growth without a sufficient influx of foreign resources, whether earned through trade or granted through aid. In quantitative terms, trade plays a much more dominant role than aid in the foreign exchange earning potential of a developing nation: approximately eight per cent of foreign resources is earned through trade. On the count of providing foreign resources, trade and aid are well-nigh equivalent. Many arguments evolve either in favour of aid or trade once this simplification is abandoned. In pure theory, while both trade and aid make it possible to eschew inefficient domestic production of foreign inputs, aid also contributes to real resources.

### Engine of Growth

On the other hand, trade is considered to be the engine of growth and welfare-oriented programmes. Other viewpoints also merit mention:

Like grant aid, more trade does not have negative repercussions on a developing country's indebtedness. This, of course, is not true with respect to loan aid.

Both the industrialized and developing nations are aware of the inordinate cost and time involved in aid administration procedures. Although rooms for improvement exist, procedures are sometimes based on the very grounds which govern the extending and receiving of aid.

The prospects of earning foreign exchange

are much more favourable from trade than aid as the latter is more uncertain.

From the developed country's point of view, aid is sometimes superior to trade since direct losses to local producers can be avoided. The point is driven home by the adage: While aid costs everyone a little, trade preferences cost a few people a lot.

How to assess each of the foregoing advantage of trade over aid and vice versa is summarized by Pincus' conclusion: "There can be no clear-cut generalization about the absolute merits of aid and trade. The viewpoint of each party and the conditions under which aid and trade are conducted will determine the preferences of each."

Currently, 20 countries and 18 international agencies are extending foreign assistance to Nepal. The terms are very liberal while most bilateral assistance from UN agencies is in the form of grant, multilateral agencies provide loans at minimal interest rates. Since 1971, the inclination towards more loans and less grants at least in terms of percentage, has been more pronounced. For example, while loan as a percentage of foreign aid during the Second Plan (1962-65) was only 9.6 per cent, the figure was 48.8 per cent in the budget of 1980-81. Compared to other hard-core economies, debt servicing (0.2 per cent of export earnings in 1979), however, is quite low.

### Twin Problem

The various meetings of Nepal Aid Group have been

successful in tapping more assistance. During the Sixth Plan, US \$566 million is expected in grants and US \$522 million in loans. The discomfiting fact, however, is related to the twin problem of inefficiency and low absorptive capacity. Much can be achieved if the organizational framework of aid administration, allocation and bureaucratic procedures is streamlined. Also for rapid economic development, planners should be prodded to reiterate and select those industries in the aid programme that have potential in generating the multiplier effect in the economy.

Mr. Pant is the co-editor of "South Asia Forum". ■

## Enhanced Ties With South Korea

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 30 Jan 83 p 2

[Text] The Panchayat and Local Development Minister, Mr. Navaraj Subedi, at a dinner hosted by him in honour of the visiting special presidential envoy of the Republic of Korea, Dr. Se Chung OH, Friday lucidly spoke of the Nepal-ROK ties. Nepal and the Republic of Korea both nations of the Asian continent have had own peculiar problems and prospects. Yet both the countries have in the past greatly contributed to the deepening of their bilateral relations and understand each other's aspirations. Nepal-ROK relations can best be gauged by the level of their cooperation on different aspects of economic and social sectors. Contribution of the Republic of Korea to the development endeavours of Nepal has been significant and it has helped develop people-to-people relations as was very rightly pointed by the Minister, Mr. Subedi. A South Korean construction company undertook the civil construction work of the country's biggest ever Hydro electric project, the 60 MW Kulekhani project, which was recently inaugurated by His Majesty the King. It is, for instance, one of the examples of growing Nepal-ROK cooperation. No less significant is Nepal's recognition of the commendable job performed by all concerned of the company in the completion of the project. This was recognised through the decorations graciously granted by His Majesty the King. Moreover, trade relations between the two countries are also growing significantly.

Nepal-ROK relations are not limited to the economic field alone. Both Nepal and the Republic of Korea are peace loving countries. ROK's recognition of Nepal as a Peace Zone has once again demonstrated that the Korean people are a peace loving nation themselves. Nepal's stand on the reunification call of the two Koreas has been loud and clear too. Nepal has time and again reiterated that Nepal was for the reunification of two Koreas if it were achieved by the Korean people themselves, through peaceful means and without any outside interference.

Nepal has watched with great interest the progress achieved by the people and government of ROK and appreciates the sense of "discipline and hard working" nature of its people in the task of their nation building. The Republic of Korea for its part is "very much impressed" by the great achievements of the Nepalese people in the all round development of the country under the able and dynamic leadership of His Majesty the King and of Nepal's role towards realising the ideals of non-alignment, as was pointed out by the special envoy Dr. OH. These bonds of friendship have been further strengthened by the people and leaders of the two countries who have taken long strides in steadily developing them. Now that the solid foundation of purposeful Nepal-ROK relation have been laid down, it is only fitting to expect for greater cooperation between the two countries in the years ahead.



Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 5 Feb 83 p 2

[Article by S. M. Singh]

[Text]

In the process of economic development, production, employment, industrial investment and mobilisation of resources foreign trade is vital. A cursory review of the history of Nepalese foreign trade shows that Nepal entered into international trade only since 2018 B.S. Due to the landlocked nature of the country, an efficient and economical transit transportation system has remained a basic need for the development of foreign trade, says SHANKAR M. SINGH.

### REAL TERMS

Nepal's trade imbalance is widening each year. In such a situation the announcement of the New Commerce Policy cannot be overemphasized. As such, the World trade environment has undergone a drastic change in the last decade and today it is characterised by serious imbalance and disparities. The experience of the fifth five year plan shows that imports expanded at an annual rate of 14 per cent whereas export growth remained sluggish at 5 per cent. In real terms, this shows that there is a decline in exports. But, the fifth plan period witnessed a remarkable success in trade diversification. As in the development strategy of the sixth plan, it has been stated that it will lay stress on the

export trade which has the additional benefit of boosting production and employment. In the sixth plan period it has been estimated to increase the export and import by 5% and 21% respectively. The main reason for increase in the volume of import is due to the implementation of capital intensive projects and the development and construction materials received under foreign aid.

Considering the existing realities in the country, HMG of Nepal announced a new Commercial Policy under the framework of the Special Economic Crash Programme, for the first time in Nepalese history, in the year 1982. In order to provide employment and income generation opportunities to the people through the production of exportable products, by increasing the standard of productivity and quality, maximum mobilisation of resources available in the country is thought to be undertaken in the New Commercial Policy. The Policy is being framed with a view to increase exports in order to achieve more foreign exchange for making the economy more competent in coping the situation of increasing exports.

### INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

In order to create a strong and an effective

institutional base for export promotion and development, from production level to export market level, a "National Export Trade Development Council" has been formed in national level consisting of the representatives from government and private sector. This council aims to work in a planned and coordinated way through planning, programming and framing of policies. The Council proposes to review and evaluate the programmes, objectives laid under yearly export plans and programmes. It will play an active role in solving the problems after identifying the areas of constraints.

A trade and Supplies Management Committee has been formed taking into consideration the development of internal market, and supply of necessary goods according to national need.

### TRANSIT

Transit problem here is a natural problem. There are different elements and dimensions of this factor. Problems encountered by geographically handicapped countries in the area of international trade with regard to transit transport communications, insurances, shipping storage and port facilities including the transit procedure and documentation call for urgent cooperative actions among the concerned

countries. With reference to the special importance of transit and transport for the development of export trade and with an objective of solving the problems associated with transit, the New Commercial Policy felt the need of "Transit Coordination Committee" consisting of representatives from related agencies.

Under the New Commerce Policy, provision of better encouragement has been managed to the private sector in export trade.

The Excise duty and sales tax on the goods exported will not be levied as per the new Commerce policy of HMG.

All administrative procedures are proposed to be made simple regarding export license.

It has been felt necessary to develop the economic state of the country through the planned effort of commerce and

supplies. Hence, this New Commercial Policy has been framed with a view to eliminate the disparities prevailing in the commerce and supplies sector. It further aims to attract more investors in the productive sector in order to achieve the stated goal at the shortest time interval in the field of commerce and supplies.

Various programmes, namely immediate, short term and long term programmes are underway as regards the foreign trade sector under the recently released commercial policy.

Elimination of the problems and difficulties associated with commerce and supplies in making this sector conducive to rapid economic development continue to be the major objectives in the formulation of the commercial policy.

The related institution, businessmen, industrialists and the consumers should be benefitted by this commercial policy.

### **Close Ties of Cooperation with China Desired**

**Kathmandu, Nepal Times, Kathmandu, in English 5 Feb 83 p 2**

**(Text)**

The interview granted recently by His Majesty King Birendra to visiting journalists from the Peoples' Republic of China provides revealing insights into the broad parameters and contours of Nepal's foreign policy. Against the backdrop of the forthcoming seventh summit meeting of non-aligned heads of state and government in New Delhi next month, His Majesty's ringing reiteration of this country's familiar and well-known stand on major issues in international relations takes on added



significance. His Majesty the King has lucidly explained and highlighted the cardinal features of Nepal's foreign policy of peace and friendship, giving it all a perspective that is essentially illuminating, specially against the background of the forthcoming March summit conference. In this connection, His Majesty has emphatically underlined that Nepal not only attaches importance to this conference but, perhaps even more importantly, that Nepal would work "towards promoting the unity, strength and effectiveness of the movement on the basis of its original principles." His Majesty has also rightly explained that the cause of peace and cooperation between nations can be best strengthened and served "when states adopt and honour certain norms such as sovereign equality, non-interference and peaceful coexistence in their relationship with each other". This forthright answer indeed is not only reflective of Nepal's well known position but provides a formula for ensuring that the Movement's unity can be maintained and strengthened in these turbulent times.

His Majesty in answer to a query has very forcefully underlined Nepal's understandably deep concern about one nation violating the territorial integrity of another. "Nepal," His Majesty declared, "is strongly opposed to any kind of foreign intervention under any pretext." As His Majesty explained to the visiting Chinese journalists, it is precisely in this spirit that Nepal has been demanding the immediate unconditional withdrawal of foreign forces from Namibia, all occupied Arab territories, from Cyprus, (and closer to home) from Afghanistan and Kampuchea. His Majesty has also re-emphasized Nepal's sensible and fair policy of backing self-determination of the peoples of countries on the basis of the withdrawal of foreign forces. Also, His Majesty's specific reference to Afghanistan and Kampuchea clarifies Nepal's stand on these two crucial issues before the New Delhi summit where these questions are likely to dominate the proceedings.

Similarly, His Majesty has once again clarified the fundamental or motivating philosophy behind Nepal's Zone of Peace proposal eloquently and aptly stressing that "the pursuit is more genuine than the search for peace" Nepal-China relations but numerous also figured in the interview. On this subject His Majesty the King expressed appreciation for the cooperation extended by the People's Republic of China, and has also referred to the need to "explore and expand" new areas of cooperation. All in all, His Majesty's interview gives a brilliant overview of Nepal's foreign relations and foreign policy, reaffirming its peace, friendship and a constant commitment to the principles of non-alignment.

Also with India, Iraq, USSR

Reference: THE KING OF NEPAL in English: 6 Feb 63 p 2

His Majesty the King's consistent and basic characteristic features of Nepal's foreign policy have been reflected in His Majesty the King's observations during the King's three separate credential presentation ceremonies participated at the arrival of the Kings at India, Iraq and Czechoslovakia.

Nepal's close and extensive relations with her immediate neighbours--one of the cardinal aspects of the Kingdom's external relations--has been well brought out by His Majesty the King in commenting that Nepal attaches "much importance" to her friendship with India and that, as such, she is "ever ready" to further consolidate the same "on the basis of appreciation of each other's needs and aspirations". Similarly, the many distinctive facets of Nepal's relations have been underlined effectively by His Majesty's references to the fact that the two are not only "close friends and neighbours" but, indeed, that the friendship between them is based on "common cultural heritage and similarity of interests". Further, it was entirely appropriate that His Majesty the King also laid on the two countries' common adherence to the principles of non-alignment and peaceful coexistence--this being particularly so in the present against the backdrop of the forthcoming seventh non-aligned summit to be held in the Indian Capital next month. Finally, on the issue of Nepal-India relations, it was also befitting that His Majesty the King should have highlighted the "tradition of cooperative relationship" existing between the two, as also the possession of confidence that "this relationship based on mutual benefit will be further enlarged in the future".

Similarly, the Kingdom's foreign policy vis-a-vis the Middle East finds ample reflection in His Majesty's observation while receiving the Iraqi Ambassador's credentials that it was "a matter of satisfaction" that the relations between the two adherents of the nonaligned movement have been marked by "feelings of friendship" and that cooperation between the two countries has "grown steadily" over the years. Exemplifying this, His Majesty mentioned how both have worked for the attainment of the lofty goals of the UN, as also that of the nonaligned movement. His Majesty the King then highlighted a very important plank of Nepal's Middle East policy: that Nepal had consistently "stressed on the inalienable right to an independent state of the Palestinian people and their participation in the search for a just, comprehensive and lasting solution".

With respect to Nepal-Czech relations, it was entirely fitting that His Majesty the King should have chosen, above all else, to mention that the two, as land-locked countries, have "worked closely" in their own ways in various international fora to promote the legitimate interest of all the geographically disadvantaged countries. Also apt in this connection was the elaboration of Nepal's zone of peace proposal by His Majesty the King, since Czechoslovakia, in spite of its distinctly different socio-economic and political system, is one of the thirty countries that have, to date, endorsed a proposal which, in His Majesty the King's eloquent words, is essentially nothing but "an attempt to ensure economic development at home and improve the climate of peace abroad."

#### Food Marketing in Asia Planned

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 17 Feb 83 p 4

[Text] New Delhi (PTI-RSS) A new organisation, the Association of Food Marketing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (AFMA) sponsored by the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations, has come into being recently with India as the chairman.

The draft constitution of the new association was adopted at the meeting of the general assembly held at Bangkok on February 10.

The meeting was attended by representatives of food marketing institutions from Nepal, India, Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

The membership of the new organisation is open to national level organisations and cooperative federations involved in food management and food marketing.

Mr. S. K. S. Chib, managing director of the food Corporation of India, will be the chairman of the new association.

The association has been set up for improving food marketing and management in the region by arranging system of exchange of information experiences and stimulating technical and economic cooperation among participating countries and the marketing institutions.

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 17 Feb 83 p 2

[Article by Gambhir Dev Bhatta]

[Text]

**Nepal's economy, like that of all under-developed ones, is characterized by low saving and investment or, in economic jargon the vicious circle of poverty. In an economy where the marginal propensity to consume is higher than the marginal propensity to save ( $MPC > MPS$ ), capital formation—the key to break the vicious circle—is wistful thinking only unless of course, aided by external capital, says GAMBHIR DEV BHATTA.**

Foreign aid has played a gargantuan and pivotal role in our economy ever since the invitation of the concept of planned economic development here in Nepal. It has not only aided in tapping and mobilising unexploited natural and human resources, but has also had a major hand in trying to usher in an era of technology in Nepal. Inter alia, it has helped in the industrial establishment of our country, development of social infrastructure, imposition of checks in the inflationary trend within the economy, and also lent a helping hand in our efforts at correcting the adverse balance of payments situation. But above all, it has helped in our efforts to break the vicious circle of poverty by providing much-needed capital

### The Circle

All-round development has eluded us because there is not much capital to inject back into the economy in the form of investments. We are barely able to save 5-6 percent of our national income (as compared to 19-20 percent in developed countries) obviously pulling down the rate of investment in the market. Less investment means less production. When production is at a low ebb economic activities are also on the decline. Income is low and as a result, saving is minimized. As saving, in essence, is capital, the circle is complete.

Foreign aid is almost always sought by an under-developed country as a means to augment the rate of investment—and ultimately

capital formation—in order that the process may be self-feeding in nature. As such, external assistance should always be regarded as a means to an end and not an end in itself.

To assuage the intensity of the problem of capital deficiency in the Nepalese economy, we have had to rely on massive amount of foreign assistance over the times. If in the first Plan period, foreign aid accounted for the entire development expenditure, there was a progressive decline in the percentage of aid in development expenditure for the three next successive plans (77.8% in the second, 56.1% in the third and 45.0% in the fourth). However, the figure showed an upward trend in the fifth Plan (moving upto 48%) and is expected to reach a whopping 60% for the Sixth Plan by the end of 1985.

### The Upswing

This upswing may be explained partly by the fact that private capital in Nepal is still unresponsive and shy thus necessitating vast government expenditure on social and economic overheads for the increasing populace. For example, a cursory glance at how the Rs 4012.5 million in foreign assistance that we received

in 1980/81 was allocated for the different sectors of the economy will reveal that of the total amount Rs 1848.0 million (Rs 624.6 million in 1979/80) was set aside for agriculture and forest development, Rs 207.7 million (Rs 209.4 million) for transportation and communication development, Rs 195.6 million (Rs 310.8 million) for power, Rs 62.0 million (Rs 0.2 million) for industry and Rs 1699.2 million (Rs 766.6 million) for social services and others.

We thus see that there has been a phenomenal increase in the sectoral allocation of foreign aid for agricultural and forest development, industry and mining development and social services: traditional spheres where private capital has hesitated to venture.

### **Toughlove Solution**

The trend (of external aid beginning to take a larger share of development expenditure) is disturbing to say the least. At a time when the very concept of aid is beginning to come under critical appreciation in almost all the developed countries (due in part by the current world-wide economic recession and stagflation), it should be the national policy of every under-developed country to chart a path of self reliance. This toughlove solution may not appeal to many, but it is the most sagacious option given the present constraints.

However, it is in practice difficult to rely on oneself sans the necessary prerequisites of development. All under-developed countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America have become increasingly development minded and have embarked on ambitious development planning to cross the hurdle of stationary equilibrium of under development. A "revolution of rising expectations" is sweeping across these nations. The rising expectations of the rising mass call for a vibrant economy—an economy in which poverty, hunger and disease have been eradicated. In the absence of endogenous capital resources, foreign assistance will continue to be the sole beacon of hope for the vast multitude of those of us who are poor.



Mr. Bhatta is associated with Research & Communication Centre, Kathmandu.

MEASURES TAKEN TO EXPAND DOMESTIC ECONOMY

Subsidies for Farm Roads

Kathmandu: THE RISING NEPAL in English 10 Feb 83 p 2

[Text

The recent announcement by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce for government subsidies in the transport of commodities to remote areas not served by feeder roads, is a welcome step to boost the purchasing power of the people living in these regions. The striking disparity between regions of the country which have been made accessible by highways and those which are still weeks of trekking away has been marked. This contrast has, in fact, been aggravated in recent years by the fact that commodities from accessible areas being nearer the consumer market, and are available for a more competitive price, thus driving produce from remote areas out of the traditional markets where they were sold. Not only has this worsened the unemployment and underemployment problem in the hills, but cash-poor farmers have found that their sole source of extra income has been gradually eroded.

This might bring us to the more broad-ranging problem of the pros and cons of building highways in Nepal, or, specifically, whether the such disadvantages do not sometimes outweigh the advantages. The main problem here, of course, is that all roads cannot be built simultaneously. Indeed, if a highway in one sector is built before it is constructed in another sector, the areas which do not yet have access to motorable transport suffer both



economically and in terms of migration of its productive workforce to the magnet of the roads. This imbalance can be best set right by good planning on the alignments of roads which do not follow routes that are favourable to certain individuals, but take into account the total impact of the road on the whole region. Second, of course, is incentives of the type that were announced by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce to ease the burden of the transport cost on the population of inaccessible areas of the Kingdom.

The announcement states that the transport subsidy will only cover the distance involved in bringing raw material and taking finished products to market in an effort to raise

employment opportunities as well as the purchasing power in remote areas through the development of cottage industries. The announcement further states that the government, and semi-government organisations, cooperatives and even the private business sectors are eligible for the subsidy. The needs of every district will be monitored and the subsidy scheme regulated by a committee under the chairmanship of the local development officer to ascertain what kind of raw materials and what quantities are covered by the subsidy. The scheme has, as such, been well thought out and has come at an opportune time to offset the imbalances which have been caused by fresh feeder roads on the fragile hill economy.

### Community Participation Sought

Kathmandu, THE RISING NEPAL in English 12 Feb 83 p 2

[Article by Ms. Rekha Upadhyaya-Thapa]

[Text]

Community participation requires organizational efforts through which the community can provide input in the development and implementation of a program. Many communities lack viable institutions for community organization and platform from which to voice community grievances but are depended on a single or several leaders for decision-making. This type of setting is not conducive to getting the community involved, says Ms. REKHA UPADHYA-THAPA.

To organize and involve the community requires channels through which information and feed-back can flow. Poor communications may be due to: wide spread dispersion of villages, poor roads, lack of transportation, illiteracy, etc. In such cases, a community gathering may only include the people

living in the surrounding area or ones who have easy access to the meeting area but would invariably exclude a large percentage of the villagers.

Recognizing that a village is not a single communal entity but dependency, exploitation and rivalry among sub-groups have emerged from

long standing historical conflicts. Factionalism and dissention within the community makes it difficult to identify the "community" and support the "community's" point of interest.

When efforts to organize the community is opposed by the wealth landed villagers, project officials find it difficult to gain the confidence and support of the majority whose interest they are actually trying to promote. This was evident in the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee's efforts to develop broad-based community participation.

Existing hierarchical social, economic and political structures of the villagers have evolved through time and have maintained a functional status quo system. In such a set-up one would neither



find village wide solidarity and any concept of the "community" nor institutions through which to democratically organize the community. Thus any effort to achieve community participation would result in the disruption of the existing functional system.

One of the essential ways the community can participate is through the contribution of money and resources in developing programs for the benefit of the community. In most rural areas there is disproportionate distribution of wealth which in turn determines who has power within the community. Thus the economic necessity to utilize community resources prevents the full support of poor villagers needs. Even if project officials make special efforts to address the poor's needs, without access to property or land, efforts to improve their conditions are limited.

An economist in his observation of failures of cooperatives movements in the Third World demonstrate the effect of uneven distribution of wealth and power on development efforts to benefit the poor.

After discussing several constraints and obstacles at the local level in getting the community involved, we move to the national level. Effective community organization is about power and involves the recognition that it is a process requiring changes of the existing status quo, decentralization and support at all levels of the organizational structure. However, in many cases

these very essential elements lacking at the national level.

### Centralisation

The facilitation of participatory approach requires a decentralized, local level decision-making organizational structure. Communities will be motivated to participate only when they know that they can actually make a difference through greater local control. However national governments tend to centralize control over the allocation of resources and provide an administrative framework and time-frame for project completion. This poses constraints on the substantial time requirements for community organizational and participation.

Although community participation through decentralization gives opportunity for decision-making at the local level, the system must be vertically linked to all stratum of the governmental organization and support. The existence of poor vertical linkage from the national level providing support and logistics to the local level hampers effective community participation and the sustainment of community interest in the program.

Constraints and obstacles in getting the community involved does not stop at the local or the national level. Donor agencies who provide funding play a very important role in whether a program will accommodate community participation or not. This requires an exploration of the donor's

basic approach, locus of decision-making and bias and prejudices in their development efforts. Unless the funding agency incorporates community participation into its program design, the participatory approach cannot be implemented.

### The "Blue-print" approach

The funding agency involved in development programs often follows a "blue-print" model of detailed pre-planning and set time-bounded targets. There are pressures for quick implementation followed by immediate, short-term results. Donors prefer large capital development projects over people-centered rural development. There is a tendency to concentrate on the transfer of resources than to support institution building. Their "blue-print" model allows no room for flexibility and runs counter to the participatory approach which involves small-scale, manpower-intensive, slow implementation and long-term evaluation.

Following the above discussions that in reality a community is not a homogenous entity but consists of stratification, factionalism, dissension and uneven distribution of wealth and power. And that there exists many constraints and obstacles in getting the community involved at all three levels: local, national and funding agency. Given these conditions, we move to a discussion of how much participation is feasible and

what types of program are  
conducive to the feasibility  
of community participation  
and what types of program  
have difficulty generating  
participation. □

### Small Farmers to Get More Loans

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 13 Feb 80 p 2

[Text] A recent study of the Agriculture Development Bank's agriculture loans project to small farmers conducted by Nepal Rastra Bank has made some positive revelations. That the income of a small farmer subscribing to the ADB's loan programmes should rise by 24 per cent as against those not going in for the bank loans as shown by the study is in itself an encouraging factor. This should also help bring more and more of such farmers within the purview of the scheme. The real Nepal lives in villages which comprise countless small farmers. Land holding is small. So are investments in land. A farmer, who has only a small piece of land of his own, can hardly make any investment worth mentioning. A couple of oxen and plough is all what he can manage. Some make do even without them. Besides this, illiteracy among the farmers has prejudiced them against the use of modern inputs such as improved strains of seeds and fertilizers. Coupled with this is the hydraheaded poverty and the absence of modern means of farming in villages. All these together underline the inevitable need for organising small farmers into groups and patronising them by financial credit institutions like the ADB and the Agricultural Inputs Corporation and others.

The study has also found that the investment on lands by farmers covered under the small farmers scheme was as high as 66 per cent. These figures were meagre 36 per cent among the farmers not subscribing to the scheme. Apart from the capital investment on land, small farmers if organised in groups can benefit from other infrastructure development like irrigation facilities, training, modern equipment and technological knowhow. Providing all these facilities to individual farmers is a difficult task. For convenience, a farmer with his annual income not exceeding Rs 950/- has been categorised as a small farmer and is subject to such benefits as are designed from time to time by the Government and banks. By the end of last fiscal year the ADB had advanced as much as 19.62 million rupees to 1745 groups of small farmers. Total number of small farmers benefiting from this stood at 17,677. Considering the fact that the number of small farmers who are in actual need of bank assistance is much higher than this, it is no time for the bank to show any complacency. But it should be clearly borne in mind that any project the bank designs should not be overambitious. Repayment of the bank loan by the farmers, no matter howsoever little the amount is, is an equally important factor. Herein lies the need to implant the sense of responsibility among the farmers. no matter howsoever little the amount is, is an equally important factor. Herein lies the need to implant the sense of responsibility among the farmers for an early repayment of bank loans without any default. If this is not ensured, the money invested in land will remain under soil and

not yield anything. Now that a positive response from the farmers to accept the bank schemes is coming, albeit slowly, it bespeaks of the willingness of the farmers to make united endeavours to improve their lots. Need of the hour, therefore, is to further liberalise such schemes to make them popular among the farmers on the one hand and win people's confidence and cooperation in such projects on the other.

#### Special Economic Program Evaluated

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 18 Feb 83 p 2

[Article by Dr. Hari Bansh Jha]

[Text] It is too early to evaluate the impact of the special economic programme which has been in operation for last few months only. But the progress made so far in the economy through the special economic programme may indicate its effectiveness in future says Dr. Hari Bansh Jha.

As part of the special economic programme, H. M. G. is in the process of establishing Shrikuti Paper Factory, Lumbini Sugar Mill, Integrated Textile Factory, Cotton Thread Industry, Hetauda Cement Factory, Iron Foundry and Turbing Plant in the public sector. Among all these industries, while the foundry is expected to start production within a month or two, Hetauda Cement Factory is to start production within three years. H. M. G. is not only anxious in developing industries in the public sector, it is equally interested in developing the same under the joint ventures and private sector. The industries being established under the joint ventures are iron and magnesite as well as lead and zinc factory. Similarly, the industries to be established in the private sector are related to fruit processing, Morang Molasses Industry and Himalayan Brewery Limited. Among the industries being established in the private sector, Himalayan Brewery Limited has already started production. H. M. G.'s awareness in the field of industrial development is also apparent from the 'Solidarity Ministerial Meeting' which it organised in Kathmandu from November 29 to December 3, 1982 with the purpose of attracting the investment of foreign capital in the industrial sector of the economy.

#### Cottage Industries

Last year, 2661 cottage industries were established in the different parts of the country. In the current fiscal year as many as 1257 cottage industries have been set up. Likewise, against the training of various sorts as made available to 5332 persons last year, 3668 persons have been provided training in the current fiscal year. For the growth of cottage industries, H. M. G. has decided to bear up to 90 percent of transport cost not only for bringing raw materials for them but also for carrying manufactured goods to the market. The transport subsidy is to be made available to the cottage industries up to certain specified distance in 40 remote districts under the special economic programme.

The laws related to industrial licenses have been simplified and made more realistic. Efforts have also been directed under the new economic programme to remove difficulties in getting loans for industries. Again, such contradictory laws which have proved hurdles on the path of development of industries have also been amended.

Under the special economic programme, the provision of incentive measures is also commendable because they may help to increase production. For example, out of the three years, the year in which the industries produce maximum output will be treated as base year and it is on this basis that in the subsequent years rebate will be provided to them to the same percentage as the increase in production. There is also the provision of giving rebate in the sales tax on production up to 25 percent.

#### Trade

In view of the rising trade deficit for last several years, H. M. G. under the special economic programme has adopted certain appropriate fiscal measures. The Tariff Board has been set up to help H. M. G. to adopt flexible and timely steps in the fiscal policy. Mention may be made in this regards of the establishment of Export Promotion Council which aims to suggest H. M. G. various measures to increase export trade. Again, on the export of jute and jute products, carpet and the others, the export duty has been reduced with the purpose of providing the domestic industries protection and making them more competitive in the world market. Besides, there is also the provision of exemption of excise duty on the production of all such exportable items. Similarly, import duty on such commodities as petroleum, bitumen, plywood etc. which are helpful for the industries has been reduced. But import duty on all sorts of luxurious commodities has been increased. In this regard, H. M. G. rightly stopped issuing licenses for the import of all sorts of brewery, cigarette, motor car, radio stereo, tape-recorder, calculator, stainless steel, synthetic yarn, shaving machine etc. H. M. G., to a certain extent, appears to be successful in discouraging the import of luxurious commodities for bringing about equilibrium in the balance of trade.

#### Banking

The special economic programme has also made certain provisions for raising the standard of living of the weaker sections of the society. Accordingly, the commercial banks so far have granted loans amounting to Rs. 8 million to the educated unemployed people without any collateral. The investment by the commercial banks in the productive sector has also increased. While the investment by these banks in the productive sector recorded at 15 percent of the total credit last year, over the first four months of the current fiscal year the same investment increased by 17 percent. The commercial banks are increasing more and more branches in the rural areas. Not only this, the banks have started providing loans to the small farmers under the priority sector. Under the intensive banking system, the commercial banks so far have invested about Rs. 230 million which has mainly benefited the rural areas. The establishment of Banking Investment Coordination Committee has proved beneficial for developing the commercial banks.

The special economic programme emphasised the need for attracting the investment by the foreign banks in the productive sector. Accordingly, H. M. G. decided to allow some of the foreign banks to operate in Nepal. In this connection, about twelve foreign commercial banks have been found interested in operating in this country.

#### Not Adequate

In spite of the best of efforts being made by H. M. G. under the special economic programme to develop the industrial sector, no adequate emphasis has yet been placed for increasing the average capacity utilisation of the existing industries. According to a World Bank report, the average capacity utilisation rate of the public enterprises in general is below 60 percent. However, it is not only the case of public enterprises or industries where the average capacity utilisation is poor. In fact, almost every sector of the economy is suffering from the same fever. In the past, efforts to a sizeable extent were concentrated in the extension and not so much on the consolidation of the gains from the different sectors. To strengthen the economy, it is not only necessary to develop new projects but also to maximise the gains from the existing projects by increasing their average capacity utilisation.

Dr. Jha is the Director of Institute of Third World Economic Studies (ITWES).

CSO: 4600/388



## FORMATION OF THIRD WORLD CARTELS SUGGESTED

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 17 Feb 83 p 2

[Text]

The substantial increase in the burden of external indebtedness of the developing countries not only reflects higher borrowings; it is also attributable to the unco-operative policies pursued by the developed countries on the pretext of existing stagflation in their economies. Recession has meant slower growth of markets and weak export prices for the developing countries. In addition, the restrictive financial policies that have been adopted by most of the industrialised countries over the past few years have had the impact of compounding these trends. The Third World countries which are predominantly primary producing nations are facing increasing balance of payments problems and all efforts to reverse this process have come to not as no workable understanding could be reached with the industrially advanced countries.

For arresting this downward trend in the commodity prices the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

has drawn a plan of support to be negotiated at the next session which is due to be held in June this year in Belgrade. The programme is meant to call a halt to the continuous downdrift in the value of the primary products exporting countries. The position is that the prices of commodity exports from the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America have been constantly going down while the prices of exports of capital goods from industrialised countries have been going up and up. In fact it is not a natural phenomenon. It is a situation created by the deliberate policies of the industrialised countries to teach a lesson to the underprivileged to behave.

The gravity of the situation can be gauged from a comparison of the figures. According to an estimate, the real prices of many commodities last year were half of what they were in 1950, while during the same period the prices of capital goods had quadrupled. Only in 1981,

the developing countries were made to suffer a loss of 8 billion dollars in commodity earnings and the total loss between 1980 and 1982 is estimated to be 21 billion dollars. Pakistan is also in the same boat. Our export earnings from rice and cotton have gone down though their volume has increased. We also are feeling the pinch of this and find it difficult to maintain our standard of living at the same level not to speak of raising it. The problem has become so acute that we have to contract new loans and also to request Aid-to-Pakistan Consortium for re-scheduling for next five years so that we be able to finance our Sixth Five Year Plan.

The industrialised countries have point blank turned down the suggestion of the developing countries to link commodity prices to capital goods prices. In other words, they want to be free to increase the prices of their manufactured goods at will and to manipulate the prices of commodities as and when they like. This is the worst kind of colonialism practised by the developed countries. Will the UNCTAD be able to bring round the developed

countries to agree to entering into commodity agreements on interim basis? Can be anybody's guess. President Reagan finds it easy to give a sermon that market place should be given free play to correct the situation and no agreed mechanism be allowed to interfere with this process. But this recipe is for the consumption of the developing countries, meaning thereby that they should agree to the freedom for plunder of their resources by the developed countries without let or hindrance. Are the developed countries following this advice when they are resorting to protectionism against the exports of the developing countries?

The Third World countries will do well to learn a lesson from their past experience in this regard. They should form their own cartels on the pattern of OPEC. The NAM Conference is a fit place to take up this issue because what is required is the political will which the countries concerned have lacked so far. Unless they decide once and for all that they will behave as a house united, nothing will happen and they would remain the pariahs of the world.



## RAWALPINDI LAWYERS DEMAND GENERAL ELECTION

Karachi DAWN in English 18 Feb 83 p 6

[Text]

### Dawn Islamabad Bureau

ISLAMABAD, Feb 17. The newly elected executive of Rawalpindi chapter of the High Court Bar Association today demanded early general elections under 1973 Constitution and release of all political leaders in the country. It also opposed the proposed Qazi Courts in the country.

The election to executive were held today and Ch. Murad Ali was elected unopposed as the new President. Sh. Altaf Ellahi, Mr Ghazanfer Ali Shah and Mr Zafar Salari were elected as Vice-President, General Secretary and Joint Secretary by securing 125, 174 and 128 out of 230 total votes.

Sh. Rauf, Mr Masud Ahmad, Mr M. Saeed Bhatti and Mr Akram Chaudhry were elected as members of the executive committee of the Association.

The newly elected President and General Secretary of the High Court Bar Association later at a function supported the lawyers' demands and asked the lawyers to continue their struggle for the restoration of democracy in the country.

They also supported the women's protest against the proposed Law of Evidence and condemned the action taken by police against the peaceful procession of women in Lahore.

PPI adds.

The out-going President of Lahore High Court, Rawalpindi Bench Bar Association, Mr M. Bilal, demanded restoration of democracy and general elections under

the 1973 constitution in the country. Addressing the lawyers on the occasion of handing over charge to the newly elected President, Sh. Zafar Mahmood, here today, he said, the 1973 Constitution was formed with the consent of prominent political parties, which he said, was in the best interest of the country.

Keeping in view the prevailing political situation in the country he suggested to hold a round-table conference of politicians to review the proposed new political set-up in the country.

Referring to proposed Qazi Courts in the country, Mr Bilal criticised the provision of an entirely new system and observed the requirement of speedy justice could be fulfilled with appointing more judges.

He emphasised the need for freedom of Press in the country and demanded removal of restrictions on the national Press.

### Lahore Bar demand

A Lahore report adds: The Lahore High Court Bar Association has criticised the arrest of Choudhry Mohammad Ashraf, Vice-Chairman of Panjab Bar Council, Mr Pervaiz Saleh Riaz Lone, Advocate and Mr Masood Shah.

An emergent meeting of Lahore High Court Bar Association held here today under the presidentship of Mr Abid Hassan Minto, demanded immediate release of the advocates.

PAKISTAN

MRS BHUTTO MEETS FORMER IRANIAN GENERALS

GF191320 Karachi DAWN in English 14 Feb 83 p 12

[Text] Paris, Feb. 13--Begum Nusrat Bhutto recently met here two former Iranian generals, Bahram Aryana and Jam, who have been living in Exile since the overthrow of shahanshah in early 1979, PPI [Pakistan Press International] learnt from authoritative sources. Gen Aryana was the chief of the Supreme Commanders Staff under the shahanshan.

The exact purpose of their meeting could not be ascertained, but reliable sources said that the former generals, who are opposed to revolutionary policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran, wanted to avail themselves of her services for furthering their aims inside Iran.

It may be recalled that Begum Bhutto originally comes from Iran.

Besides meeting the Iranian generals, Begum Bhutto has been leading an active political life since she left Pakistan, ostensibly for the purpose of getting medical treatment.

Last month, she went to Libya where she spent nearly two weeks. According to a source, well known for his reliability, she was accorded a special consideration and given a VIP treatment. She was accommodated in Madina Siahya (Tourist City Hotel) in Tripoli, where special arrangements were made for her security. She met President Qadhdhafi on two occasions. She also met her two sons, Murtaza Bhutto and Shahnawaz Bhutto, there. Murtaza Bhutto later flew to Damascus while she was still in Libya.

Among other people received by Begum Bhutto at Madina Siahya, was Col (Retd) Habib Khan, one of the accused under trial, who was repatriated from Pakistan in exchange for hostages of a PIA plane, hijacked by the terrorist organisation, Al-Zulfikar.

Ever since her return to Paris, Begum Bhutto has become politically active. She has given 13 interviews to different newspapers, news agencies and radios, including REUTERS, BBC, NEW YORK TIMES, HERALD TRIBUNE, VOICE OF GERMANY, LE FIGARO, Radio Denmark and the London-based correspondent of INDIA TODAY.

In these interviews she criticised the U.S. Government for selling F-16 aircraft to Pakistan.

CSO: 4600/359

# GULF INVESTORS KEEN TO COLLABORATE IN LIVESTOCK FARMING

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 17 Feb 83 p 1

[Text]

A number of foreign investors including those from Gulf states have shown keen interest to collagorate with Pakistani investors to set up Livestock farms in Pakistan, it is learnt.

The live stock development will take place in the private sector. The foreign parties offers are under process.

The Government has taken a number of steps to develop corporate farming. The steps according to official sources are:

Allotment of state-land for live-farming has been and is being made in Sind. Corporate units have been given larger piece of stateland on lease compared to individual applicants. Similar practice is under consideration of the Punjab Government.

Similar preference is given by the Pakistan Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation Limited, Industrial Development Bank of Pakistan and Agriculture Development Bank etc in providing long-term medium-term and short-term loans both in foreign and local currency to establish livestock farms.

Apart from that, the following concessions are also available to develop livestock industry —

Income from dairy farming,

poultry farming, cattle and sheep breeding, poultry processing and fish catching is exempt from income tax. This exemption is currently valid till June, 1985.

Upper ceiling for maximum land holding under Martial Law Regulation 115 has been relaxed. This has enabled provincial governments to lease out large chunks of state land not otherwise fit for crop operation for livestock farming.

Import of exotic breeding cattle which are required for cross-breeding and raising have been allowed on free list. Similarly, parent stock of exotic poultry and eggs have been allowed.

Export of 10 thousand breeding buffaloes, 4,000 breeding cows and 10,000 breeding goats per year has been allowed, so as to provide incentive for breeding for high grade animals.

Export of poultry and eggs have been allowed. 50 per cent of total production of commercial feed lot units, livestock farms and bilateral ventures is exportable.

Artificial Insemination Service facilities at nominal charges to upgrade local scrub animals with frozen semen of both exotic and indigenous breeds are available through chain of Artificial Insemination Centres.

Free veterinary care is provided against contagious, viral and parasitic diseases, and research and diagnostic facilities are also available wherever possible.

MORE EXPORT ZONE PROJECTS SANCTIONED

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 16 Feb 83 p 1

[Text]

Ten more projects envisaging a total investment of dollar 10.232 million have been sanctioned for establishment in the Export Processing Zone near Karachi, it was learnt.

This brings the total number of projects sanctioned to 39 with an investment of over dollar 147.807 million.

Eight of these projects have been sponsored by non-resident Pakistanis in Saudi Arabia, UK and USA while one each by Saudi Arabian and British entrepreneurs.

Of the newly sanctioned projects, two will produce specialised readymade garments and two fruit juices. The other projects envisage manufacture of wide range of goods including assembly of electronic equipment like VCRs and tapes and kitchen furniture.

It is also learnt that the first shipment of specialised garments produced in the Zone has already been made. Two projects are in production, factory building for another projects is almost ready and construction is in advance stages in the case of one another project.

To attract investment in the Zone A 14-minute documentary film has been prepared in English, Arabic and Urdu which will also be dubbed in Japanese, German and French language.

EPZ's Chairman visited Saudi Arabia last month to introduce EPZ to Saudi entrepreneurs and non-resident Pakistanis living there.—PPI.

## STRIKE IN SOCIETY, CLASH OF CULTURAL VALUES ANALYZED

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 17 Feb 83 pp 4, 7

[Article by M. A. Akhyar]

[Text]

WHO could have expected February to be so noisy? First we had the Islami Jamiat-e-Talaba protest in Karachi. They had not yet finished when a Shia-Sunni clash took place in New Karachi. And just as some Sunni divines were flexing their muscles to engage the Karachi administration, the Lahore police charged into a procession of academically political ladies. No correlation is suspected other than that all three events were unpleasant or ugly, saddening and confounding.

The Islami Jamiat was gently interfering with public transport to secure the release of some of its members arrested by the police in connection with a killing on the campus. The exercise was given up, according to some reports, after a satisfactory compromise was reached with the administration. The Shia-Sunni flare-up of New Karachi would have passed just as another instance of sectarian conflict. But it assumed the proportions of a major trouble when the Shias, in substantial numbers, decided to camp out on the City's main artery so long as the Government did not promise exemplary punishment to those who had

ransacked their Imambarah in New Karachi. They meant business and it was obvious that the agitation could spread to other parts of the country. Fortunately, the Government did not make it a question of prestige or public order and settled the matter by negotiation. Soon after the Shia sit-in was called off, however, some Sunni divines discovered that the Government had made peace with second string Shia leaders at the cost of their creed and the interests of their New Karachi followers. A full-scale Shia-Sunni confrontation was in the making, but the Lahore police saved the situation.

A bunch of feminists in Lahore thought they should see the Chief Justice of the High Court to give vent to their feelings on the new law of evidence drafted by the Islamic Ideology Council. Under President Zia-ul-Haq's Islamisation programme, amendments have been proposed in the existing Evidence Act we have inherited from the British colonialists. The feminists believe that some of these amendments violate the principle of equality of sexes and, in effect, assign a lower status to women in the Islamic society to-be. They have the

right to plead their case in proper forums as well as the right to be convinced where their case falls. If there was no good reason for them—and quite feminal that—to approach the Chief Justice who is not the law-maker, the idea was not wicked or mischievous either. But the police and magistracy didn't think so. So many smart ladies heading for the High Court to argue with the Chief Justice on the law of evidence—here, they felt, was their duty to tame the shrew. And they did it as well as they could.

By a strange coincidence, law and religion lie at the origin of each of these three unconnected incidents. Is this coincidence not an inkling that something is happening to our religion as well as law? Are not the contradictions of our character and life now cruelly testing the strength of our faith and the pillars of our social structure?

Take the first incident. Violence broke out at the campus, as usual, between two ideologically divided groups, one committed to Islamisation and the others not too enthusiastic about it. Since a life was lost, the police had to take cognizance of it and some arrests were made. The Jamiat thought—and rightly, for all one knows—that the police had laid hands on the wrong students and so it decided that the students be freed. In the second incident, the sectarian clash, an assurance was almost given, on demand no doubt, that the men picked up by the police from among a riotous mob would be awarded the severest punishment, albeit not before trial. In both cases, the relevance of judicial process was in doubt.

The law was not on the wrong side of the ladies in Lahore, a circumstance which apparently did not favour them. They were proceeding to the High Court to put

across their viewpoint on a draft legislation. This was, in the eyes of the local administration, an undesirable activity and was dealt with as such and was dealt with as such. The indignity and use of force they were subjected to can only be described as reprehensible and shameful. The injury done to the Islamisation programme, however, is the greater. Is this how, anti-Islam elements may ask, Muslims are supposed to treat their women and to propagate the teachings of their great religion?

The whole affair forcibly draws attention to the contradictions of national life. A new social order is to be evolved according to the Islamic principles with the same instruments of powers that were evolved to serve the system rejected as un-Islamic. The police are not to be roundly blamed. They acted as they are trained and expected to act wherever dissent or disorder is sensed. Dissent it was?

The ladies were in the wrong on three counts. Firstly, their concept of equality of sexes, borrowed from the west, is an anachronism in Pakistan. Apart from the fact that the western concept is the product of decadence and what is proudly admitted to be a permissive society, equality of rights and opportunities is meaningful only in a broad framework of equity or value system which remains to be constructed here. It is an anachronism also for the unspeakable fact that woman is still treated as a commodity in a well-organised flourishing trade in our society.

Secondly, the ladies seem to be still unaware that Islam does not envisage total, unqualified equality of sexes. While it accords the same dignity to woman as to man,

it also lays emphasis on the unalterable differences of sexes and their peculiar limitations in exercising their rights and fulfilling their obligations to society. If we profess to be Muslims, we will have no option but to accept the Islamic concept of complementarity of sexes as the very basic element in the integrity and progress of society.

Thirdly, the draft law which has irked the Lahore ladies so much, is concerned with the administration of justice and the reliability of evidence. It is not to be taken as the final edict on the status of women in society. The Quran does lay down that two men or one man and two women should bear witness to orally negotiated commercial business, but it also indicates that this injunction is only to guard against her weakness of women's memory. The injunction should belong to the law of contract and it has to be accepted by all Muslims. To dispute it would amount to disputing the wisdom of Allah and renunciation of faith. It would be unjust and, indeed, un-Islamic if one hastened with the verdict of apostasy on all those who question the wisdom or morality of any provision of the draft evidence law and the other laws said to have been Islamised by the Ideological Council. Questions may be based on ignorance of the Quranic Law and the teachings of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.). But questions also spring from intel-

ligent re-interpretation of broad principles or intimate awareness of the ever-changing social conditions. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) welcomed questions to answer and lead and enlighten his Ummah.

Our misfortune is that during the last hundred years or so the theologians in this region of the Muslim world have not followed this tradition faithfully and have been over-alert to ex-communicate anyone raising an awkward question. However well-versed in the Fiqah laid down by the Imams of the medieval times, the majority of them not only kept aloof from modern science but also stubbornly refused to study the extent, depth and dynamism of social change. This handicap made them only more militant in the assertion of their dogma and to denounce the credentials of all others outside their ranks to interpret the eternal truths of Islam. But the tragedy is that they are violently divided among themselves—there is no count of theological schools in our midst—which only adds to confusion and schisms on religious issues in the nation at large. By a twist of circumstances they have been able to occupy a position of scholastic authority in the current Islamisation programme in our land. If one has to join issue with them, one should be equipped and ready to face the music.



PAKISTAN

KARACHI, LAHORE BOMB ATTACKS CONDEMNED

GF251404 Karachi DAWN in English 22 Feb 83 p 7

[Editorial: "Bomb Attacks"]

[Text] The bomb attacks against French establishments in the city and in Lahore are obviously an extension of foreign battles. The blasts--all of which are thought to have been caused by plastic bombs--did not cause any injuries, although they did do fairly extensive damage to the offices that were attacked. So far there seem to be no clues to the identity of the persons, presumably part of a group, that made the attacks but it appears that initial suspicion has fallen on nationals of a country whose relations with France are bad. Police have even rounded up 12 Iranian nationals for interrogation and are enquiring into the ways in which the explosives used in the attack may have been brought into the country. Whatever the result of investigations may turn up, what is apparent is that the attacks were carried out by persons who seemed to know what they were doing. Although the attacks were essentially of a 'benign' nature--if that term can be used in the present context--in the sense that loss of life does not seem to have been intended, it could very easily have resulted in it.

The last thing that we need is a transference of the disputes of other nations to this country. Pakistan not only does not have any quarrel with France but has good relations with that country. It is simply inconceivable that any Pakistani should want to attack French establishments here. It is disturbing that nationals of other countries should choose to make Pakistan an arena for their own disputes. Unfortunately, in the last decade or two these tactics have been used so widely that they have almost gained acceptance, at least in certain circles. In this country the fear is that if such attacks do begin to take place, there will not be all that much that can be done about them. However, tightly policed the country may be politically, the normal police procedures leave much to be desired and it is doubtful that they are sophisticated enough to deal with determined terrorist attacks. If the persons who made the attacks on Saturday are ever identified, Pakistan should appeal to the government of the country of their origin to keep its disputes to itself and not try to involve other nations.

CSO: 4621/019

# ZIA AS CIVILIAN PRESIDENT: SUGGESTION REJECTED

Karachi DAWN in English 19 Feb 83 p 12

[Text]

LAHORE, Feb 18. Mian Tufail Mohammad, Amir of the defunct Jamaat-i-Islami has rejected the proposal of accepting Gen Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq as President for another term if he revives the National Assembly of 1977.

It was, in fact, a bargain of the defunct People's Party with Gen Zia-ul-Haq that they would accept him as President if he revived their government, he said, while talking to reporters at the airport on his arrival from Saudi Arabia via Karachi here tonight.

How can the people elected 15 years back be still peoples representatives? How can the government which tortured people under its rule be revived, Mian Tufail asked?

He said we would not like imposition afresh of the government which set up Dalat camps and kidnapped the innocent girls and kept them in Government houses.

Mian Tufail Mohammad said, the Government should hold elections under the 1973 Constitution on the basis of separate electorate and proportional representation.

He further said that there should be some qualifications for the candidates to contest the next elections.

About his medical check-up, Mian Tufail Mohammad said, the doctors had told him that one of the three veins of his heart was closed and that an alternate way was there.

The doctors of the King Faisal Specialists Hospital had asked him

to exercise certain precautions and to get himself re-examined after six months, he added.

He was received by Qam Hussain Ahmed and other party leaders - PPI

## SIND STUDENT LEADER THREATENS UNITED ACTION ON BROAD FRONT

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 30 Jan 83 p 5

[Text] Hyderabad, 29 January--By JASARAT correspondent--Rashid Nasim, organizer of the Sind Islami Jamiat-e Tulaba (Pakistan), says that the administration was responsible for the recent incidents in Karachi University and that the administration's obstinacy has caused the situation to deteriorate even further. Arriving in Hyderabad this morning from Karachi, Rashid Nasim addressed an emergency meeting of the provincial [Jamiat] leaders and said, "Students all over the country, and especially students in Sind, are troubled and disheartened by the countless problems that face them. It is possible that in the future, all student organizations will unite on a single platform to solve their problems, and the Jamiat will not lag behind." Rashid Nasim said, "The students are not politicians from the government causes to fight among themselves, leaving it free to do as it pleases. The students are well aware of these tactics, and they will show their unity and strength to solve their problems.": He added, "After the abhorrent violence shown by the police against students in Karachi University, the students feel free to hold violent demonstrations. By means of violence, the students are being forced to take to the streets." He said, "An effort is being made to sabotage this unity by releasing a few students; but the students will never forget those companions who have suffered the hardships of prison for a long time." He said, "I advise all units of the Jamiat inside Sind to be prepared to join the struggle of the students of Karachi. If problems are not solved, a full-scale movement will be started throughout Sind as a first step in the nationwide movement." Earlier, Rashid Nasim held consultations in jail with other Jamiat leaders concerning the problem and visited the wounded student Raihan Hasan in the hospital.

9863

OSU: 457/197

## UNITED NATIONS EFFORTS ON AFGHANISTAN DISCUSSED

BK240935 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1715 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Commentary by Suleman Minai]

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan is reported to have expressed guarded optimism about the progress and prospects of the indirect talks on Afghanistan being conducted under the United Nations auspices. In doing so he was echoing the hopeful note struck by the United Nations special representative, Mr Diego Cordovez, after his recent round of shuttle diplomacy. There are some indications that the issues involved were getting clarified, which in itself is a step toward a comprehensive settlement. In such intractable international problems, as Pakistan's foreign minister pointed out, no spectacular result could or should be expected. But greater [word indistinct] leads to better understanding of the various points of view and options. This process of defining and refining will go a long way to facilitate further negotiations in Geneva scheduled to be resumed in April.

At the conclusion of Mr Cordovez's recent trip, during which he visited Islamabad, Kabul and Tehran between 21 January and 7 February, a United Nations spokesman said he was able to widen the understanding reached in the earlier efforts at Geneva. Consequently, it was agreed to hold another round of discussions there in mid-April on the same procedural basis as was adopted last June.

According to authoritative sources, the United Nations' special envoy's previous phase of parleys centered on substantive context. It may be recalled that the four elements of a settlement, as agreed to last year in Geneva, was the withdrawal of foreign troops, assurances of noninterference and guarantees of nonintervention and also the return of refugees. The United Nations secretary general, who had received his representative's report, was also quoted as being gratified with the support received to facilitate a fair and durable solution of the Afghanistan problem. He was keen that no efforts should be spared to enable the people of Afghanistan to live in peace.

Next month, the United Nations' secretary general is due to pay an official visit to Moscow where the Afghan question is expected to come up in his talks with the Soviet leaders. Constant contacts at all the levels and careful deliberations at all ends will help evolve some practical provision to (?scrub)

round the delicate and difficult points at issue. Besides matters of substance, which were of course, most important, the modalities and mechanism were no less important considering the complexity of the exercise.

Pakistan's attitude toward the Afghan people has all along been positive and principled. Whether at the United Nations, Nonaligned Movement or Organization of Islamic Conference, this country has pleaded for a peaceful political solution. Because of geographical proximity, historical ties and cultural contact, the concern of Pakistan for early solution is obvious. But on top of that all, the presence of nearly 3 million Afghan refugees in this country as a result of the situation in Afghanistan made matters more urgent. As President Zia-ul-Haq has repeatedly made clear, Pakistan will continue to bear this responsibility on humanitarian grounds until the way is cleared for the return to Afghanistan in honor and dignity of the Afghan refugees.

CSO: 4000/359

# DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS PLANNED IN BALUCHISTAN

CF181800 Karachi DAWN in English 16 Feb 83 p 6

[Text] Quetta, Feb 15--The government of Baluchistan has allocated an amount of Rs 73.57 million for the development of water resources in the province. This amount would be spent on 46 projects for irrigation and drinking water.

Twenty-three of these projects are expected to be completed during the current financial year. The remaining 23 are scheduled to be implemented next year.

The present government has placed provision of drinking water on its priority list and is spending substantial amount for its resources on modernising the drinking water system in the province. So far 167 projects have been completed in various districts, providing drinking water facilities to about 1.1 million people. This year, Rs 44.54 million have been allocated on 23 projects. Seventeen of them would be completed during the current year, providing drinking water to 15,000 people.

In communication sector 300 highway from Quetta to Karachi, Loralai-Dera Ghazi Khan Road have been completed within a period of five years. Besides this, federal government has taken the control of some important highways in order to ease the burden on provincial budget. These are Quetta-Sibi-Jacobabad Road, Quetta-Chaman Road, Loralai-Dera Ghazi Khan Road, Mushk-i-Taftan section of the R.O. Highway, Sibi-Tali Khan Kohly Road and (Polari) and Said Hamid bridges also.

In the field of industries two textile mills have been installed one each at Quetta and Thal. Major mineral deposits in the province, i.e., natural gas, Nokkundi iron ore and Saindak copper deposits are being handled by the federal government. Supply of natural gas to Baluchistan is a credit which goes to the present regime.

The federal government has helped in improving the communication facilities in the province. During last five years, air service between Quetta and Karachi via Turbat has been started.

Thus the people of Makran division have been provided an air link with both the cities, Karachi and Quetta. Two new radio stations in Turbat and Khuzdar have been set up.

At Sibi a booster station has been set up for giving better TV coverage to that part of the province.

Similarly in the field of telecommunication Quetta has been linked through nationwide dialing system with a number of cities and 16 foreign countries also.

Remote areas of Kharan, Mekran and Chagai have been linked with the telecommunication trunk network. Last year, a new postal circle has also been formed at the directives and special interest of the federal communication minister, Mr Mohvuddin Baluch.

A cadet college at Mastung and an engineering college at Khuzdar and a medical college at Quetta are the projects which are being funded by the federal government.

MSO: 4600/359



## STEEL MILLS TO BE COMPLETED NEXT YEAR

Karachi DAWN in English 18 Feb 83 pp 1, 17

[Text] The Federal Production Minister, Lt-Gen Saeed Qadir, yesterday indicated completion of the Rs 2.5 billion Soviet aided steel mill project in all respect by early next year.

Talking to newsmen who were taken to recently completed two units of the steel mills — steel making plant and billet mills — the Minister said 88 per cent work has been completed and all efforts are being made to complete it within the stipulated time.

He said that Soviet Union has to despatch about 12,000 tons of equipment for two other vital units of the steel mills project which are hot strip mills and cold rolling mills. The equipment includes 3,000 tons for hot strip mills and about 9,000 tons for cold rolling mills.

The Minister said the 800mm billet mills had been completed and its trial operation commenced on Oct 11 with imported blooms.

The billet mills now was operating on blooms being produced within the steel mills and so far had manufactured 4,500 tons of billets which had already been supplied to five different consumers belonging to private and public sector.

Similarly both the converters and bloom caster of steel making plant have already been put on trial commissioning the first converter and bloom caster were commissioned in December 1982 while the second converter was commissioned only today.

The first slab caster of the steel making plant, he pointed out, is expected to be commissioned next month and the second slab caster in June this year.

The Minister said that the main emphasis is being laid on completion of hot strip mills and cold rolling mills as they produce value-added items which would give tremendous boost to the engineering industry.

On delivery of equipment for the two units hot strip mills and cold rolling mills — he said installation work would be taken up promptly and expressed the hope that hot strip mills would be completed by September this year while cold rolling mills would be on stream in the first quarter of 1984.

The Minister said that almost all the units of the giant steel mills, which is the biggest project in the country, is being operated by Pakistani engineers and technicians.

The formal take-over of these units by Pakistani engineers and technicians will be done only after a technical team of Soviet experts have examined the trial commissioning.

Replying to a question, the Minister said the size and technology involved in the steel mills project was novel for Pakistani engineers and technicians but they took up the assignment with courage and fortitude.

However, in view of the massive size and novelty of the project there could be flaws here and there which would create problems for some time.

But then the results achieved so far and the performance given by the Pakistani engineers and technicians could make every one believe that the project would be completed within the scheduled period.

Intervening in the conversation, the Chairman of Pakistan Steel, Mr H.N. Akhtar, said all efforts are being made to complete it within schedule.

In view of the heavy financial outlay involved in the project, he said, a single day delay amounts to loss of Rs five million capital loss which a country like Pakistan can hardly afford.

Mr Akhtar said that equal emphasis is being laid on the quality of the products which are of international grading in all respect.

He said special quality control devices have been adopted in the steel mills to ensure quality of the products.

As for pricing of the products, he said, prices are being determined on cost manufacture while the overhead expenses are being ignored for the time being.

Consequently the prices of pig iron and billet, he said, was relatively less than the landed cost of these imported items.

To a question, he said, the steel mills will attain optimum level of production of 1.1 million tons annually in one year after its commissioning.

The newsmen were taken round the steel making plant, billet mills and the proposed site of hot strip mills where the Minister today inaugurated the power distribution station for the proposed hot strip mills. —PPI

PAKISTAN

# MARTIAL LAW TEAM PROBING MEDICAL COLLEGE AFFAIRS

Karachi DAWN in English 18 Feb 83 p 1

[Text]

A Martial Law Inspection team has started investigations into affairs of the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre from yesterday.

The three-member team headed by a Brigadier held the first round of discussions with the Director of the JPMC.

The Federal Government had earlier ordered investigations by the Federal Inspection team. But its recommendations were not implemented. The inquiry related to non-availability of medicines, lack of equipment, unhygienic conditions, non-availability of blood for transfusion, misuse of funds, and total absence of ambulance service, etc.

The present Martial Law Inspection team will also rely on Federal team's recommendations, and examine present state of affairs at JPMC.

The Inspection team spent three days at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases, held discussions with the Executive Director, observed the facilities being offered to the patients and also took note of their problems.

CSO: 4600/392

# ALL-PAKISTAN LABOR MEETING PLANNED

Karachi DAWN in English 18 Feb 83 p 9

[Text] LAHORE, Feb 17: An All-Pakistan Labour Conference will be held in Lahore on March 25 where a future course of action will be evolved for the working class of the country in the light of the present situation.

This was stated by Mr Safdar Husain Sindhu, President of Pakistan Trade Union Federation, Punjab, while addressing a Press conference here on Wednesday.

He said that elections to various offices of the Federation will also be held on the same date. Referring to the problems being faced by the workers he said that the price hike was agonising while retrenchments and contract system was formed another big problem for them.

He demanded a stop to retrenchment, end of contract system in the factories, revival of trade-union rights, including the right to strike. Provision of 45 per cent dearness allowance to the private sector workers as enjoyed by the workers employed in the public sector.

He said that his organisation was against denationalisation of factories and stood for the nationalisation of more big industries.

Mr Safdar Husain Sindhu also demanded the lifting of censorship from the Press and early declaration of the fresh Wage Board Award for the Press workers.

The President of the Pakistan Trade Union Federation, Punjab, criticised the police high handedness against the women procession and announced full support of his organisation to the country's women. PPI

CSO: 4600/392

MINISTER SAYS REFUGEES NOT ALLOWED TO BUY PROPERTY

Karachi DAWN in English 18 Feb 83 p 20

[Excerpt]

ISLAMABAD, Feb 17: Interior Minister Mr Mahmoud A. Haroon, today told the House that Afghan refugees in Pakistan cannot purchase immovable property in Pakistan except with prior Government permission (tractors) without payment of Customs duty and Sales-tax for an initial period of three months. He said there is no ban on the Afghan refugees entering into other business avocations according to law.

The Minister said, so far not a single refugee has been permitted to purchase any immovable property.

The Minister was replying to a question by Ch. Nisar Ali Khan during the Question Hour today.

Khawaja Mohammad Saifdar, chairman of the Majlis, presided over the session which adopted six more clauses of the draft Establishment of Qazis Courts Ordinance, 1981, as reported by the Select Committee.

Mr Mahmoud Haroon told the House that the Afghan refugees have been allowed temporary importation of commercial vehicles (buses, trucks, trailers and

CSO: 4600/392

# EXPENDITURE ON REFUGEES DETAILED

Karachi DAWN in English 18 Feb 83 p 14

[Text] LAHORE, Feb 17 The Commissioner for Afghan Refugees, Brig. Said Azhar, on Wednesday said that Pakistan was spending five hundred million dollars every year on all arrangements for the three million Afghan refugees in the country.

In an interview at the railway goods shed where he received documents of wheat donated by Australia. He said that the daily wheat requirement of the refugees was 1200 metric tons and the daily expenditure on them in terms of money came to 1.5 million dollars.

In reply to a question, he said that Pakistan was meeting half of the total expenditure on the refugees, spent mainly on the daily cash allowance, transportation of relief goods to refugees camps, etc.

He said that 350 refugees camps were located in the provinces of NWFP and Baluchistan except two which had recently been opened at Esakhel in Punjab. Each camp consisted of ten thousand persons.

To another question, he said that the main item of assistance for the refugees was food and the donors included the United States of America, Japan, West Germany,

Australia, Canada, Scandinavian countries, Britain, France, EEC and Muslim countries.

## Australian rigs

Meanwhile, the Australian Ambassador in Pakistan, Mr. W.J.P. Handmer, on Wednesday said that Australia had agreed to donate rigs for drilling wells for water supply to the Afghan refugee camps.

In an interview at the goods shed of Lahore Railway station where he had gone to witness the departure of the first trainload of wheat donated by his Government, the Ambassador said that an agreement to this effect was reached recently and Australia would supply the rigs within a couple of months.

In reply to a question, he said that Australia had been extending help to the Afghan refugees since the beginning of the influx and had so far donated 67,000 tons of wheat in addition to the present donation of 25,000 metric tons besides cereal and sugar.

He said that the Australian assistance to the refugees up to date was about 23 million US dollars. — APP

# AGGRESSIVE COTTON EXPORTS EMPHASIZED

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 21 Feb 83 p 1

[Article by Babar Ayaz]

[Text] Pakistan will have to do aggressive marketing to unload the exportable surplus of about 2.3 million bales of cotton in the bearish world market, where supply is ahead of demand by around 30 million bales (480 pounds each).

The target for cotton production, in 1982-83 season was fixed at 4.80 million bales (375 pounds each) added with the carry-over of 6.6 lakh bales the total comes to about 5.46 million bales.

The domestic consumption is estimated to rise this year to about 3.1 million bales from the last season's 2.70 million bales.

However, according to cotton market estimates the exportable surplus would be around two million bales and not 2.3 million bales as they dispute the claim that the cotton production in the country would meet the target.

The ginneries have reported that while the cotton season has almost ended they have received only about 4.5 million bales, out of which the mills have picked over 2.1 million bales until now and the CEC has procured about 1.3 million bales.

The Cotton Export Corporation has envisaged exportable surplus of only 1.4 million bales.

It may be mentioned that the CEC carry-over from last year was about 3.20 lakh bales

and according to an estimate it had to incur an expenditure of about Rs. 15 crore to carry this stock.

The CEC is faced with a sluggish market.

Besides the odds that the major buyer China has smaller production and consumption gap this year due to better production 15.40 million bales, India our major competitor has a bigger exportable surplus particularly due to lower domestic demand and increased production.

plus particularly due to lower domestic demand and increased production.

It may be recalled that China cotton shopping from Pakistan had dropped last season to about 7 lakh bales as against 1.2 million in 1980-81 season.

# INCREASE IN SUGARCANE OUTPUT REPORTED

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 19 Feb 83 p 2

[Text] Sugarcane production was up by 13 per cent in the financial year 1981-82 as compared to 1980-81, according to all Pakistan Final Estimate of sugarcane crop for the year released by the ministry of Food and Agriculture.

The production in the sugarcane in 1981-82 has been placed at 36,564,000 tonnes as compared to 32,359,0400 tonnes produced in 1980-81.

Similarly the area under sugarcane crop in 1981-82. Estimated at 946,100 hectares was up by 14.7 per cent over previous year's estimate of 624,700 hectares.

In Punjab, the area and production of sugarcane in 1981-82 has been estimated at 670,200 hectares and 25,021,000 tonnes respectively, while in Sind area and production was 174,000 hectares and 7,462,700 tonnes respectively.

In Punjab there was an increase of 12.2 per cent in area and 5.4 per cent in production, while in Sind the area and production indicate an increase of 28 per cent and 49 per cent respectively.

In the N. W. F. P. the area and production of sugarcane crop for the year 1981-82 is estimated 101,200 hectares and 4,057,200 tonnes, registering an increase of 11.8 per cent and 12.8 per cent in production over the previous year.

In the province of Baluchistan, the area at under sugarcane was 700 hectares and production 23,100 tonnes respectively.--PPI.

CSO: 46J0/390



## WHEAT CROP CHANCES TERMED BRIGHT

Kerachi Dawn in English 19 Feb 83 p 3

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Feb 18. The Federal Minister for Food and Agriculture, Vice-Admiral Mohammed Fazil Janjua has said that the widespread rains were timely and most beneficial for the current wheat crop.

He said that the rains have brightened the prospects of the crop particularly in the Barani areas of Punjab and NWFP, where the sowing target has been exceeded due to favourable weather.

The Food Minister in an interview said that due to bad weather less sowing was done last year while during the current Rabi season about four lakh acres more lands have been brought under the wheat cultivation throughout the country against the target fixed by the Government.

He said that 128.5 lakh acres land was brought under the wheat crop in Punjab against the stipulated target of 124.5 lakh acres. While in NWFP 20.10 lakh acres were brought under the wheat crop against the fixed target of 19.76 lakh acres.

The national target for wheat was fixed at 174.20 lakh acres, while 178.03 lakh acres were brought under the crop this year. He attributed this increase to the timely rains at the sowing time.

The Agriculture Minister said that there was a shortage of irrigation water at sowing season which was made up by the sufficient rains at that time particularly in Punjab

and NWFP.

The Minister said that no disease attack on the wheat crop has been reported so far. The crop was reported to be in good condition.

He said that continuous rains may affect the crop but so far the country has received rains at the required time which has brightened the chances of having a bumper crop.

He said that the use of quality seed among the farmers community has increased by eight per cent as compared to the last year. He said that against the use of 14.77 lakh maund quality seed of last year, some 15.91 lakh maund quality seed has been used in the current wheat crop sowing.

He said that the use of fertilizer in the Punjab has recorded an increase of eleven per cent, which is the biggest wheat growing province of Pakistan. The use of fertilizer in the province of Sind has increased by 5 per cent while in Baluchistan it has been increased by 23 per cent. The Minister said that the fertilizer use in NWFP this year has a record increase of 62 per cent.

The Federal Food Minister said that more agricultural loans were advanced to the farmers of the country, this year by the three institutions including the Agricultural Development Bank of Pakistan, commercial banks and the federal bank for cooperative as compared to the last year. —APP

## DRILLING OF 5TH PIRKOH WELL TO START

Karachi DAWN in English 19 Feb 83 p 3

[Text] The Oil and Gas Development Corporation is planning to start drilling the fifth well at the Pirkoh gas field in Baluchistan shortly.

According to an official source, the Corporation has already drilled four wells at the Pirkoh site which would be integrated with the national gas distribution system by the end of the year to augment the gas supply by 72 million cubic feet.

The Corporation, which has been sanctioned a sum of 1,284 million by the Government for carrying out developing schemes during current fiscal year, has already completed the drilling of the fourth well at the Dhodhak condensate field near Dera Ghazi Khan.

Bids have been invited by the Corporation from international oil companies to develop the Dhodhak condensate field either on risk or

non-risk contract basis.

### Off-shore site

About the prospects of off-shore oil exploration, the spokesman said an off-shore seismic survey of 1,150 kilometers in the Arabian Sea near Karachi have been completed under the Norwegian technical assistance programme.

The seismic data, he pointed out, has already been processed and the report prepared by Norwegian experts was being studied by the Corporation experts.

As for the exploratory wells, he said the Corporation has recently completed drilling of an exploratory well at Dakhni, in Attock Division. The well was drilled to a depth of 4,950 meters and preparation was in progress to test the well.

In addition, preparations are in

hand to drill one exploratory well at Kathar, near Hyderabad, north of the Khushkheh oilfield.

### Loti site

The source said that Corporation will also start drilling an exploratory well at Loti, located between the Sui gas field and Pirkoh gas field, in Baluchistan.

As for field surveys, he said the Corporation is currently carrying out three geological surveys in the Bugti tribal area, Kohlu Agency in Baluchistan, Jhang and Attock district in Punjab and Bajora, near Sehwan in Sind.

Seismic surveys are being undertaken in Sanghar and Hyderabad districts in Sind, Attock and Jhelum in Punjab, Kohat district in NWFP and Bugti Tribal Area and Kohlu Agency in Baluchistan. —PPI

CSO: 4600/382

USHR COLLECTION OF RS. 40-45 MILLION EXPECTED IN SIND

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 17 Feb 83 p 2

[Text] The collection of Ushr in Sind effective from March 15, 1983 is expected worth around Rs. 40-45 crore.

Sind Secretary Social Welfare, Zakat and Ushr, Matahar Hussain, told a radio news conference yesterday that the collection of Ushr is expected to be 4-5 times more than the present land revenue collections.

He said that training of the concerned staff was also being undertaken and hoped that no difficulty will be faced in the implementation of the system in Sind.

He said that rules and regulations of the Ushr system had already been approved at the last meeting of the Central Zakat Council while provincial rules will be vetted after receipt of the central rules. These rules will be more or less uniform in all the provinces.

He said that in Sind Ushr will be collected through the local Zakat committees and on self-assessment basis.

#### **SOCIAL WELFARE**

The Secretary said the Sind Government will give priority to the establishment of centres for the rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents in the province.

He said it has been proposed in the Sixth Five-Year Plan to set up three such centres at Karachi, Hyderabad and Sukkur. At present juvenile delinquents are kept in remand homes or juvenile jails.

He said that under the sixth plan the government also proposed to establish hostels for women and initially 5 such hostels would be constructed in various districts.

Matahar said that two more 'Darul Aman' were being opened in Sukkur and Hyderabad.

He said that beggary was a great social problem to which the government was giving due attention.

He said that a 'Darul Falah' is being constructed at Orangi where genuine beggars would be rehabilitated.—APP.

# TEXT BOOKS BANNED FOR ANTI-ISLAMIC CONTENTS

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 21 Feb 83 p 3

[Excerpt]

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 20: Federal Education Minister, Mohammad Ali Khan of Hosi today assured the House the Government was keeping a strict vigilance to ensure that the textbooks prescribed for the educational institutions were free from any material which conflicts with Islam and Islamic values.

He was speaking on the admissibility of an adjournment motion moved by Mian Mohammad Shafi stating that a picture of pig had been shown in a book which was being taught in a local English school.

The minister said that it was the express objectives of the national education policy to produce true patriotic Muslims from the educational institutions. He said that government had already constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Mohammad Abdullah which was examining as many as 1200 text books of Urdu, English, Sindhi and Pushto. He said that about 500 text books which contained material against Islam or Islamic teachings have been banned from the institutions.

The Education Minister said that government was making concerted efforts to make the educational system in consonance with Islam and had banned all those books in which such material was found. He cited the example of a book which was being taught in an English school in Multan. He said that government had also instructed all the educational institutions to include in their curricula only approved books.

He said that government had issued clear instruction in this regard and no book from the provincial text boards had been published which contained material derogatory to Islam or the Islamic values. He said that in case of imported books, its contents sometime did not come to the notice of the government. The government took immediate action whenever such instance came to its knowledge.

DETERIORATION IN LAW, ORDER IN SIND CRITICIZED

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 30 Jan 83 p 3

[Editorial: "The Law and Order Situation in Sind"]

[Text] The leader of the defunct Jamaat-e Islami Party of Sind, Jan Mohammad Abbasi, has expressed concern over the increasing lawlessness in Larkana district and demanded special measures to control the deteriorating state of law and order. He said, "The people are severely disheartened by the high-handed methods of the police force; incidents of serious crime have increased in Larkana, and law-abiding citizens are losing sleep over the growing number of murders."

Mr Abbasi is quite justified in saying that the increase in crime proves the incompetence of government officials who, having no fear of being called to account, are busy harassing the people. Mr Abbasi referred to bribery and said, "Nowadays, even nepotism is not as effective as bribery. In the past, the police regarded the taking of money in crimes of blood as taboo and considered the taking of bribes in murder cases against their moral code. But today, the situation is such that when murder is committed, the police congratulate each other." Mr Abbasi said, "Nowadays, the police demand bribes of 50,000 to 100,000 rupees for each murder case."

Governor Abbasi has probably read this report by Mr Abbasi on the condition of law and order in his province. Will the governor be able to shift his attention away from bureaucratic reports of "all is well" and understand the need to listen to the voice of the people?

9863

CSO: 4656/97

## ORGANIZED GROUPS REPORTEDLY SELLING BIHARI WOMEN

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 30 Jan 83 p 4

[Text] Dera Ghazi Kahn, 29 January--By JASARAT correspondent--An organized group of slave traders reportedly sold 25 Bihari women from the Bihari camp of Kaurangi after taking them to different areas of Dera Ghazi Kahn. According to detailed reports, this group of slave traders is active in the sale of women all over the country and their agents work regularly in different areas. Details of terrible and inhuman incidents are emerging that show that the slave traders are carrying on a regular business in selling Bihari women. The customers bid for the women and the highest bidders get the women. It seems that the Bihari women are displayed in windows and if a customer wishes to see a woman's face, he has to pay 10 rupees, which are not refunded; the customer pays 10 rupees for each woman that he wishes to look at and the seller keeps the money whether the customer is pleased or not. After selections are made, bidding beings and may go as high as 10,000 to 20,000 rupees for each woman. Each customer is also required to give clothes and jewelry for the woman. According to reports, widows are sometimes sold as well. If she is accompanied by a male child, no extra charge is made, but the cruel agent and slave trader demand an additional sum for a female child, upon payment of which the woman and child are handed over to the buyer. If the buyer refuses to pay the extra sum, the mother alone is sold and the child is snatched away by the agent from the grieving mother. The slave traders make the buyers sign various documents, probably to protect themselves from the law. The Dera Ghazi Kahn police are conducting investigations concerning the Bihari women arriving in various localities here because they fear that some unscrupulous individuals may send these helpless women to brothels. Bihari women bought in this way have been brought to the Kot Chatah, Choti Basti Malana, Basti Yaki, Basti Nasir and Basti Nau areas of Dera Ghazi Kahn. The police are questioning certain individuals in these areas.

9863

601 4656/97

6,500 PRIMARY SCHOOLS PLANNED

Karachi DAWN in English 18 Feb 83 p 14

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Feb 17 The Government plans to set up 6,500 primary schools during the current fiscal year as against the original Fifth Plan stipulation of establishing 2,000 primary schools a year, mostly in rural areas.

Relevant official sources said that a major step in expanding primary education had become possible by decentralisation of education apparatus and innovative methods in providing primary education to children.

One of the ways of expanding primary education has been by utilising the existing and new Madressa schools where, besides elementary religious education, teachers have been inducted to impart other basic education. The Government has extended financial support to such Madressas which adopt the primary education plan as well.

Yet another innovation being introduced in primary education is to place less and less reliance on

provision of buildings and books. Instead the teachers are being encouraged to employ oral methods without students necessarily getting the textbooks. In such a method a teacher is, of course, expected to be more enterprising so as to be able to engage children in learning without textbooks.

One obvious advantage of introducing the innovations is to cut down capital outlays on providing primary schools and also to reduce the financial burden on individual parents for sending their wards for acquiring primary education. The authorities concerned have, however, been required to obtain progress reports of such innovative schools before releasing funds on quarterly basis.

The primary education has been poor in Pakistan with about four million enrolled students. The Sixth Plan proposes to raise the literacy rate from existing 24 per cent to 50 per cent by 1985.

CSO: 4600/392



# SENIOR OFFICERS FAMILIARIZED WITH F-16

Karachi DAWN in English 20 Feb 83 p 3

[Text]

PESHAWAR, Feb 19 Senior Army and naval officers from all over the country familiarised themselves with the capabilities of the PAF's newly-received F-16 aircraft when they paid a visit to the PAF base, Sargodha, on Thursday.

The visit started with an hour-long briefing on the F-16. In his introductory remarks, the Base Commander, Air Commodore Farooq F Khan, spoke of the all-round superiority of the aircraft as a multi-role fighter. He said the aircraft received by Pakistan were fitted with the same electronic and other equipment as formed part of the aircraft which were in service with the US Air Force.

Later the commander of the F-16 squadrons, Wing Commander Shahid Javid, traced the history of the development of the F-16, described its unique aerodynamic and other features, and dealt with its capabilities for different roles. The picture that emerged was that of a well-rounded, combat-effective fighter which had advantages over other aircraft of its class.

Later a demonstration was provided of some of the characteristics of the aircraft when it competed with a Mirage and an F-6 aircraft during a thrill-packed flying display.

One aircraft of each type rolled down the runway for take-off. The F-16 beat the other two in getting airborne. Rising steep and fast it outclimbed its rivals to rush to its target.

In the meantime, a second F-16 got airborne. After a steep turn it appeared in front of the spectators and performed different low-level manoeuvres, displaying its impressive turn and climb capabilities, its low and high-speed flying qualities as well as its remarkable stability and control.

The practical advantage of these capabilities was driven home later when the three aircraft (F-16, Mirage and F-6) that had got airborne earlier, appeared on the scene and engaged in air combat. The F-16 outpaced and out-turned both of its rivals to gain positive advantage over its pursuers. APP

CSO: 4600/391

## IMPORT OF FILMS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR SUGGESTED

Karachi DAWN in English 19 Feb 83 p 7

[Text] WITH the closure of all cinema houses in the country under protest, the crisis that has plagued the film industry and trade for some years has assumed a new sense of urgency. While the exhibitors in the Punjab-NWFP circuit launched their protest on last Saturday, owners of cinemas in the Sind-Baluchistan circuit joined on Wednesday. The main demands of the exhibitors are: better availability of films and reduction in entertainment duty. On both counts, the grievances appear eminently justified. A sympathetic review by the authorities is clearly necessary if the decline and fall of the Pakistani cinema is to be effectively arrested. But the manner in which earlier manifestations of the crisis were ignored or underestimated bears little hope for early and sensible remedies. Cinema has traditionally been the staple entertainment of the masses and the closure of about 700 cinema houses in the country will amount to an abrupt shift in the rhythm of ordinary lives. About two million persons go to the cinema every day. Also substantial will be the loss to the exchequer while the strike lasts. In Sind, 100 per cent entertainment tax is charged on admission rates but in Punjab,

the tax is 150 per cent. The exhibitors are demanding that the tax be reduced to 75 per cent, which would still be rather on the high side. Paucity of good and popular films has hit the trade even more adversely. In fact, the crisis that has now become nearly unbearable at the exhibition end has been a cause for serious concern at the production level for about four years. The vagaries of censorship and lack of a well-defined policy about what kind of films should be produced and imported for general distribution have led to distortions that threaten the very future of the industry. Even though it has not always been very gratifying, cinema entertainment has played a significant role in society in the absence of other forms of moderately priced entertainment. This is not the occasion to lament the darkness that envelops our cultural arena. Stage enjoys no institutional support and the performing arts are at a discount.

The Pakistani cinema has suffered for a number of reasons. It always lacked an environment in which quality films could be produced. Lack of official support for worthwhile artistic endeavour left the field open for shady operators who obviously do not have the intellectual and artistic resources to counter the

formidable VCR challenge. The advent of VCR, an epidemic caused also by official failure to take the right decisions, has led to a vicious circle. As the more discerning viewers turned to private showings of uncensored foreign, mainly Indian films, the cinema was left to cater entirely for the so-called front-benchers. Gradually, the VCR also invaded the market and clandestine shows of even pornographic films became common in low-income neighbourhoods. This could have been countered by more and better films at the cinema and a more sensible censorship policy. But censorship became unduly strict about the kind of dramatic situations to be allowed in a story. What it has done to the film exhibition trade is evident from the number of cinemas that have been closed down in Karachi to make room for shopping centres and commercial complexes. As it is, the number of cinemas in Pakistan is very small, providing a restricted market for local productions. The import of films, nationalised since 1973, has also been erratic and we normally have vulgar action thrillers from the West. The demand that the private sector should be allowed to import

films is quite valid in the present circumstances. A high-level meeting has been called in Islamabad to discuss the problems of the film exhibitors. It is hoped that this meeting will consider relief measures for an industry that faces virtual collapse. But any immediate decisions that may be adopted to tackle the cinema strike should not keep the authorities from considering the essential crisis in its entire perspective. Basic decisions will have to be taken in the framework of a national policy for culture and the performing arts. A part of the entertainment tax should be invested in promoting the quality of our films. It is too vital an enterprise to be left bleeding endlessly.

CSO: 4600 391

PAKISTAN

UNAUTHORIZED TRADING BY MULTINATIONALS UNDER INVESTIGATION

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 20 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] Multi-national companies operating in Pakistan under specific industrial sanctions but also engaged in trading of items not actually manufactured by them, have been asked to render accounts of profits earned and repatriated on such trading activities.

"BUSINESS RECORDER" understands that such trading activities in some instances, were unauthorized and repatriation of profit earned was against the Foreign Exchange Regulations.

It is reported that a multi-national company having sanction for production of industrial gases and welding electrodes in Pakistan has also been marketing transformers under its own brand name although these transformers are not manufactured by it but by a purely Pakistani enterprise. This company has not only been asked to render accounts of profit earned and repatriated on this account but also to explain how the trading activity has been undertaken.

This multi-national in the recent past is reported to have made arrangements and sought Government's permission to become an agent in Lasbela district for a local LPG marketing company. Permission was not accorded, according to knowledgeable sources.

It is believed that the cases of a few other multi-nationals are also under scrutiny as they have been reported to be marketing items manufactured by local companies instead of putting up their own plants to manufacture these items which would require investment of capital in accordance with government sanctions to them.

A well known multi-national obtained sanction under PICIC loan to set up a plant for the manufacture of detergent powder in 1976 but has so far failed to establish such manufacturing capacity. However, this company is very successfully marketing its detergent powder under its brand name but produced by a Pakistani Chemical Company. This multi-national has been repatriating very handsome returns on its foreign shareholding.

CSO: 4600/390

## DENATIONALIZATION POLICIES TERMED INCONSISTENT ; REASSESSMENT URGED

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 20 Feb 83 p 2

[Text] It now appears that if the denationalisation of the agro-based units, namely, flour mills, rice husking factories and ginning units, was not promptly done when the present regime took over, these too would have been retained in the public sector and there would have been a thousand one reasons for doing so. Even after the repeated pronouncements and solemn promises that no more nationalisation would be resorted to, the transfer of the electricity distribution companies to WAPDA was made in the whole of Punjab, and it was justified on numerous grounds. Though now there are indications that the entire electric distribution system may be handed to the private sector, there are certain sectors of industry which the Government has avowedly decided to retain in the public sector. However, the private sector has been allowed to enter other fields of industrial activity which were earlier made the public sector

monopoly, but the old taken-over units, it has been as solemnly declared, would not be returned to their rightful owners. We are referring here particularly to the vegetable ghee making units about which the Federal Industries Minister, Ilahi Bakhsh Soomro declared in the current session of the Federal Council that the Government did not want to throw open this sector completely which would result in crisis and escalation of prices. What he implied and what has been repeatedly said by the authorities was that total denationalisation of this sector was out of the question. Only those units which the Government has failed to manage efficiently and were in the red, could be denationalised while all others would remain the public sector property. And this is being done because it is a 'sensitive industry' which affects every household. When it was taken over by the Government in 1973, the argument for doing so was almost the same. What

then could assure the private sector that what the authorities are saying now about the more important role to be assigned to it in the future scheme of things, is really meant?

Soomro's statement in the Council implies that the private sector would deliberately raise the prices of ghee without any rhyme or reason and the Government working under the pressure of social responsibilities would not do so. But the question arises: By what percentage the prices of this very item have gone up since its transfer to the public sector in 1973? Statistics would not tell lies. This is a matter of simple calculation. What preferences and concessions are being allowed to the ghee industry even to maintain the existing increased level of prices? If all these concessions are provided to the private sector, the ghee prices can be lowered rather than increased.

It is regrettable that those very arguments and the same reasons are put

forth as did the previous regime for its economic policies. Besides, the present Government has been as adamant in retaining almost all the taken-over industrial units as the previous one. The only relaxation is that some of the fields where the private sector's entry was totally banned, have been thrown open to it. Still there are fields where it can and in the past it has actually played an important role, are being retained as public sector monopoly. Cotton exports and rice exports, are still the sole responsibilities of the public sector. Private sector is being kept aloof from them. Private sector entry in these spheres is not only going to reassure it and improve the investment climate but also improve the efficiency of the public sector organisations. Similar is the case of the banking sector. Only the other day we have written about it and drawn attention to the paradox that exists in the official policy. What surprises us is that the Government was not willing to associate the private investors with the banking sector even as its shareholders. Let the Government sell the stocks of the nationalised banks to the general public and extend its base of ownership.

The need of the hour is to create consistency the

official policies. The way things are being handled at the moment create more doubts and suspicions in the minds of the investors rather than reassure them of the importance they are said to enjoy. These doubts and suspicions are bound to reflect in the overall investment climate in the country. We would urge the authorities to reassess their policy particularly regarding the already nationalised sector of the economy so that the private sector could come forward with added confidence.

BRIEFS

**MRD CRITICIZES IMPRISONMENTS**--Hyderabad, Feb 20--The MRD [Movement for Restoration of Democracy] Hyderabad, will observe "Youm-i-Aseeram-Jamhuriat" [Day of Imprisonment of Democracy] with great fervor throughout the district on Feb 24 in accordance with the decision of the MRD Central Committee. This was decided at a meeting of MRD held at the residence of Mr Abdul Khaliq Khan, a local leader of the defunct Tehrik-i-Istiqlal and presided over by the convener of MRD, Hyderabad District, Mr Shakeel Ahmed Pathan. The meeting among others was also attended by Messrs Abdul Rehman Sheikh (PDP) [Pakistan Democratic Party], Usman Kennedy (PPP) [Pakistan People's Party], Manzoor Sheikh (Pakistan Awami Tehrik) and others. The meeting demanded immediate holding of general elections under 1973 Constitution, release of arrested political leaders and students. The meeting also strongly condemned police lathi charge on women and urged upon the government to take drastic action against those who were bent upon creating rift and hatred between two sects of Muslims. The meeting also appealed to the people to struggle hard for the restoration of democracy in the country to frustrate the evil designs of the vested interest. Meanwhile, as many as 37 leading advocates of Hyderabad District Bar Association in a joint statement have condemned police lathi charge on women at the Mazar of Quaid-i-Azam on Feb 14 and arrest of Mr Aqil Gulhi, advocate by the police. The advocates have demanded action against police officer involved in the incident and a holding of a judicial inquiry in this regard. [Text] [GF251440 Karachi DAWN in English 23 Feb 83 p 1]

**STUDENTS HURT**--Hyderabad, Feb 16--Two students of Liaquat Medical College [LMC], Jamshoro, sustained gunshot injuries as a result of a 30-minute gun battle between two groups of students of LMC today. The injured were identified as Ansar Jameel and Esa. Four students were reported to have been injured in the firing. Two of them, Manzoor and Akram, were slightly injured and allowed to go home and the other two, who were critically injured, were admitted in LMC hospital. The report said that both the groups used fire arms freely. These included sten-guns, shotguns and revolvers. The Jamshoro police have registered cases against 16 students belonging to both the groups. No arrest has been made so far. The students groups identified by students belonged to New Sindhi Student Organisation [NSSO] and Jiye Sind. According to some of the students, the Jiye Sind had allegedly threatened the medical college authorities that students belonging to NSSO would not be allowed to appear in the examination. Today when some of the students, mostly from Sanghar and Mawabshah Districts, reached Liaquat Medical College to appear in the examination and others to get admission, they were fired upon allegedly by Jiye Sind group. NSSO students anticipating such an attack, were also armed.



The police hit him and soon a gunbattle started. It continued for 30 minutes before both the groups retreated. The police have registered a case against Asad Ali, Qadir Magshi and five other of Jiye Sind and Ansar Jameel, Akram, Munir and five others from NSSO. According to police the armed battle started following a dispute over a banner. [Text] [GF210932 Karachi DAWN in English 17 Feb 83 p 1]

PAF'S FIRST IN -- Islamabad, Feb 16--The ferry to Pakistan of the first squadron of PAF's [Pakistan Air Force] A-5 close support fighter aircraft purchased from China was completed today. Air Chief Marshal Muhammad Anwar Shamim, chief of the air staff, visited a PAF base where he saw the landing of six aircraft of the squadron this afternoon. He inspected the aircraft and talked to the PAF pilots who brought them to Pakistan. The PAF is planning to acquire three squadrons of A-5 aircraft. The aircraft are being specially built by the Peoples Republic of China to meet the PAF requirements of close air support for the army units. [Text] [GF210930 Karachi DAWN in English 17 Feb 83 p 1]

EXPORTS TO R. C. D. COUNTRIES--Pakistan's export to Iran and Turkey (R. C. D. countries) increased by about Rs. 818 million during the first six months of the current financial year 1982-83 as compared to the exports to these countries during the same period last year, it was learnt here. According to official figures exports to these countries totalled Rs. 1268.1 million during the first half of the current fiscal year forming 8.9 percent of the total exports as compared to Rs. 450.1 million during the same period last year. The main items of exports to R. C. D. countries during the period were non-ferrous metals (Rs. 355.0 million) cotton fabrics woven (Rs. 174.2 million), articles of textiles materials (Rs. 145.7 million), rice (Rs. 100.5 million), fertilizer manufactured (Rs. 79.9 million), wheat and basmati un-milled (Rs. 67.8 million) and textile yarn and thread (Rs. 67.4 million).--PPI. [Text] [Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 19 Feb 83 p 1]

LESS DEVELOPED AREAS A PRIORITY--Islamabad, Feb 19: The Federal Minister for Industries Iftikhar Bukhsh Soomro has said that Government is laying greater emphasis on the industrialization of less developed areas of the country. He was briefing the members of the standing committee of Majlis-e-Shura on industries here today. Industries Minister apprised the standing committee of the policies and measures being adopted by the government for encouraging the private sector for setting of new industrial units in the country. The meeting discussed in detail the problems relating to industries like ghee, furniture and textiles. The Secretary Industries and senior officials of the Ministry of Industry were also present in the meeting.--PPI. [Text] [Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 20 Feb 83 p 1]

LABOUR COMMITTEE--Islamabad, Feb 17: The Federal Government, has constituted a Standing Labour Committee, in order to suggest and examine various schemes for the welfare of the working community in the country.--PPI. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 18 Feb 83 p 1]

WOMEN'S RALLY CALLED CONSPIRACY--Peshawar, Feb 17: A meeting of 28 heads (Muntazimeen) of religious institutions (Madaris) of NWFP held Tuesday at the office of Idara-i-Ahyaul Uloom, through a unanimous resolution, described the women's demonstration against Islamic Law of Evidence at Lahore the other day, as a "heinous conspiracy" against Islamic order and the State. The resolution strongly condemned the ill-will behind the drama and demanded action against these women. The resolution called upon all the religious (Deeni) parties to expose and frustrate the secular elements' conspiracies unitedly.--PPI [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 18 Feb 83 p 9]

RESTRICTIONS ON BIZENJO CRITICIZED--The Orangi Township unit of the defunct Pakistan National Party (PNP) at a meeting yesterday urged for the withdrawal of restrictions imposed on the movement of the party chief, Mir Ghaus Baksh Bizenjo. The meeting also demanded withdrawal of the warrant for arrest of Dr Aizaz Nasir. Through another resolution, the meeting protested against use of teargas and lathicharge on the women demonstrators in Lahore. It criticised the deletion of the name of an accused from the murder case of Qadeer Abid Javed and also expressed its concern over the reported hunger strike resorted to in jail by Ghansham Prakash, a student leader. The PNP meeting called for an open trial of the accused in PIA hijacking case. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 19 Feb 83 p 8]

VILLAGE STATISTICS PUBLISHED--The Agricultural Census Organisation, Government of Pakistan, has published the first reported titled "Mouza Statistics" as a part of the publication programme for 1980 census of agriculture. It contains information on availability of drinking water and electricity in the mouzas, number of tubewells and tractors and location/distance of important facilities from the Mouza like tehsil office, police station, post office, metalled road, grain/vegetable market, hospital/dispensary.--APP. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 20 Feb 83 p 3]

DAY CARE CENTERS PLANNED--Islamabad, Feb 19: The Federal Secretary, Women's Division, Begum Salima Ahmad, said here on Thursday that the Government intends to set up day-care centres for children below school-going age. Speaking at a function at the Pakistan National Centre here, she said the centres will be attached along with schools and will provide a convenience to working women. The function organised by the Business and Working Women of Islamabad comprised of a lecture by Miss Kathleen Reddy, Economic and Commercial Officer at the US Embassy in Islamabad, on the subject of "Role of Professional Women in the USA." Later, a resolution criticising the lathi-charge on a women's procession of Lahore was also passed. The resolution also called for not implementing the proposed Law of Evidence according to which the evidence of two women will be considered equal to that given by one man.--PPI. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 20 Feb 83 p 4]

CALL TO RECONSTITUTE MRD--The Central Executive Committee of Nizamul Ulema-i-Pakistan, has said that the entire organisational set-up of the MRD should be re-constituted. A Press release of Nizamul Ulema-i-Pakistan, issued her yesterday, said the Executive Committee felt that for expediting the movement, there should be a chief of MRD. It added that no statement or Press release be issued on behalf of MRD without taking the Nizamul Ulema-i-Pakistan into confidence. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 20 Feb 83 p 12]

CSO: 4600/391

## PRESIDENT REAFFIRMS PLEDGE TO UPHOLD LAW

Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 7 Feb 83 pp 1, 8

[Article by Norton Weerasinghe]

[Text] President J. R. Jayewardene in his address to the nation from the historic Pattirippuwa of the Dalada Maligawa yesterday said that people of Sri Lanka had by electing him President for a second term, placed a heavy responsibility on his shoulders.

"This confidence which you have reposed in me needs the assistance and cooperation of every citizen of this country to carry out the tasks ahead for the benefit of the people", he said.

A mammoth crowd, perhaps unprecedented in the history of this ancient hill capital, had gathered to hear President Jayewardene address the nation from the Pattirippuwa for the third time since his sweeping election victory in July 1977.

The President said that he had addressed the nation for the first time in that sacred and historic place on July 28, 1977. That was in his capacity as Prime Minister elected by the people. Thereafter, on February 5, 1978 he had addressed them as their first executive President. "Today on February 6, 1983, I am speaking to you not

only as the second Executive President but as the first elected Executive President or Head of State of Sri Lanka. Therefore, today is a historic occasion", he said.

The President said that Kings, Prime Ministers, Presidents and leaders had addressed the nation from that sacred and historic venue. It was in the magul maduwa in the vicinity of the Pattirippuwa that the Sinhala kingdom was handed over to the British rulers under the Kandyan Convention of 1815. It was opposite that historic place that the Sinhala flag was hauled down and the British flag was hoisted, he said.

In 1948 when Sri Lanka won back its freedom, the lion flag once again replaced the British flag. From the time of Vijaya, for 2,500 years Sri Lanka

was ruled by Kings and Queens. That was now a matter of history.

In 1815, by the Kandyan Convention, Sri Lanka came to be ruled under the British. After 135 years we won our freedom and in 1972 Sri Lanka became a Republic and the President became the Head of State. But that President was chosen by the Prime Minister. Today it was the people of the country who chose the President.

On October 20, 1982, a majority of the 81 million voters of this country elected the UNP leader as President and head of State.

"A tremendous responsibility has been placed on me as a result of this election. As President and Head of State and the leader of all the people of this country it is my duty to act in fairness to all, and to act without discrimination on grounds of race, caste,

creed, religion or any political grounds and to treat everyone equally and administer the country according to law he said.

He said he believed that in this country every human being was born equal. It was only the actions of an individual that made him different from another. Therefore those who ruled the country have to act in a reasonable and just manner.

He said that he should therefore extend his sympathy not only to his friends but also to his enemies. Such an administrator had to take decisions with great foresight. These decisions should be aimed at achieving stability.

He said he also believed that the administration must always uphold the truth. If these principles are followed any ruler or administrator will definitely win the respect and confidence of the people. The people will

follow him and follow his ideas and help him to implement them.

The President said that he wished the gods to protect this country, its people, and the rulers, who ruled for the benefit of the people.

"There are, in the vicinity of this place the Natha, Paththini, Vishnu and Katarama devalas and other religious institutions. The government has decided to make this area a sacred area to be administered with government aid", he said.

The UNP under his leadership he said had been returned to office by the people at 5 elections since 1977. Therefore a big responsibility was cast on him. He had to rule for the benefit of the people.

In such rule one should not think of families, friends, or relations. The people had elected him for a second term with great confidence to serve them.

He thanked the people for the confidence they had reposed in him and asked everyone to assist him in his endeavour to serve them justly.

The President, Mrs. Jayewardene, the Prime Minister and Mrs. Premadasa arrived at the Dalada Maligawa at 2.30 p.m. They were received by the Diyawadana Nilame, Dr. Nissanka Wijeyeratne, The Basnayake Nilames, G.A. Kandy, the Mayor of Kandy and the M.P. for Kandy were present.

They were then conducted to the hewisi mandapaya (drummers hall) where the President received the blessings of the Mahanayake Theras of the Malwatte and Asgiriya chapters. This was followed by an anusasana by the Mahanayake Thera of the Malwatte Chapter after which there was a special exposition of the sacred Tooth Relic for President and Mrs. Jayewardene.

A few minutes later drums were played by school bands to herald the appearance on the Pathiruppuwa of the Secretary to the President who finally read out a proclamation announcing the arrival of the President to address the nation.

As the proclamation was read, a soldier unfurled the President's flag.

The President then arrived with the Diyawadana Nilame and took his place at the Pathiruppuwa from where he hoisted the national flag as magul bera throbbed and conches blew.

Then came the historic moment of President's address to the nation.

After the address, President and Mrs. Jayewardene proceeded to the special dais in the Mahamaluwa from which they watched the school childrens' parade.

# PETROLEUM COMPANY BIDDING TO TRIM OIL BILL

Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 7 Feb 83 p 8

[Article by T. Sabaratnam]

[Text] The Ceylon Petroleum Corporation is trying to re-negotiate its contracts with Saudi Arabia, Iran and some other countries in an effort to trim the oil import bill following sharp decline of crude oil prices on the spot market.

Authoritative sources said that CPC is now in contact with Saudi Arabia and Iran both of whom are OPEC members in an effort to win a price concession.

Asked about these developments, Industries Minister Cyril Mathew smiled a 'no comment.'

Mr. Mathew however said that the authorities were doing their best to ensure that there was no oil price increase here despite exchange rate changes, which has made the dollar more expensive in rupee terms.

The dollar costing more rupees has placed an enormous strain on CPC. Mr. Daham Wimalasena, the Corporation's Chairman said,

He explained that the country's oil imports were largely paid for in dollars and a dollar costing a rupee more meant a Rs. 375 million tab for CPC.

Mr. Wimalasena said that the Corporation was now trying to hold oil prices to the consumer in two ways. The first was to seek a lower price for contracted supplies from the two main supply sources, Saudi Arabia and Iran. The other was to turn to the spot market for oil as prices there are below OPEC levels.

It wasn't possible to depend on the spot market alone for all crude purchases, the CPC chief explained. Continuity of supplies were necessary and the corporation had to be very careful in disturbing arrangements that have worked smoothly for a long period of time.

CPC is now negotiating with Air Lanka to get better prices for aviation fuel supplied. The corporation argues that present rates are uneconomic.

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MARCH 30, 1983

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